Pink Cherry Blossom Scans
Presents:

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Volume 3

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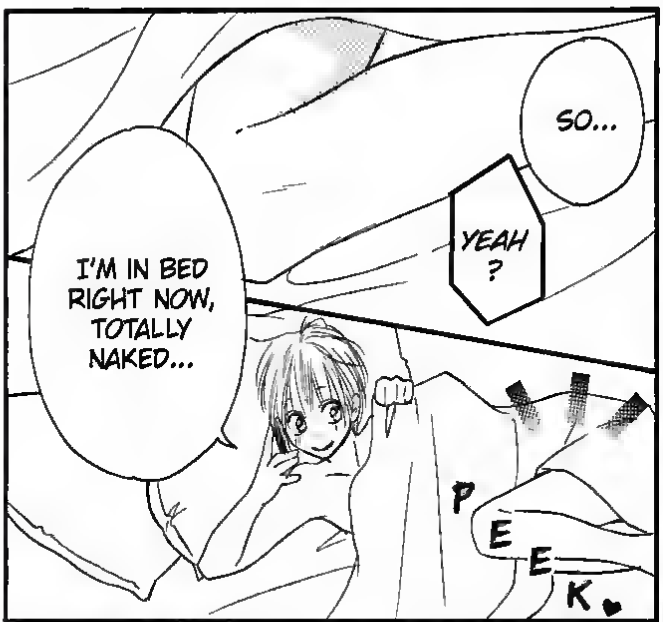
The Scent of Apple Blossoms

The Scent of Apple Blossoms
SO CLEAN OUT THE FRIDGE, OKAY?
FINE.
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF DELIVERIES WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT.
AND IF YOU COULD TAKE A LOOK AT OUR FAX ORDERS...
WILL DO.
WELL, I'M OFF TO MR. SAKAMOTO'S.
OH, AND IF YOU HAVE TIME, DO TOMOR-ROW'S-
Like I'll have time!
WUP
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY! JUST GO!
OKAY, OKAY!
BRRNG♪
HEY.
GOOD MORN-ING...
BRRNG

I CAN SLEEP LATE ON MY DAY OFF!
SO... WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?
WORKING, OBVIOUSLY. HARUNA'S BEEN ON MY ASS ALL MORNING.
YAWN
WELL, I JUST WOKE UP.
MORNING? DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
HOW NICE FOR YOU.


SO...
YEAH ?
I'M IN BED RIGHT NOW, TOTALLY NAKED...
P E E K

HA HA... YOU'RE A GOOD BROTHER.
SO ARE WE ON FOR TONIGHT? YOU CAN COME, CAN'T YOU?
YEAH. I SHOULD BE THERE AROUND SEVEN.
GREAT. I'LL BE WAITING.

He hung up! How mean!
STOP CHATTING, GET UP AND START THE DAY!
KLICK
He's such a dope!
NO WAY!
DOES THAT TURN YOU ON?

SIGH
CLACK
MMM... WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!
THINK I'LL HANG OUT THE SHEETS!
The Scent of Apple Blossoms

MART
GROUND BEEF 160円
BEEF TENDON 140円
SAUCES
WHAT SHOULD I MAKE FOR DINNER?
OOH, I WANT BRAISED PORK!
I WONDER IF SHU LIKES IT...
I BET HE DOES!
EXCUSE ME.
COULD I GET A BLOCK OF PORK BELLY?
COMING RIGHT UP!
HOW MANY GRAMS D'YA WANT?
HMM... 500 GRAMS.
HERE YOU GO! THEY'LL RING YOU UP AT THE FRONT.
OKAY, THANKS.
NOW I NEED SOMETHING TO GO WITH IT...A VEGETABLE?
HE NEVER WANTS TO EAT HIS VEGGIES...
MAYBE HE'D EAT VEGETABLE SOUP. BUT SOUP DOESN'T REALLY GO WITH THIS...
CLACK
CLACK
MAYBE MISO SOUP WITH LOTS OF VEGGIES IN IT.
Hmm...

HEE HEE HEE... ♡
Good thing I like to cook!
THUNK
LOOK AT ME...I'M LIKE A DOTING WIFE.
TWO BOTTLES! ♡
HOPE THEY'RE NOT TOO HEAVY. Oh well...
OH YEAH! I'M OUT OF SODA!
THUNK
HEH♡
HMM?
Guess that's it.
OH, AND I WANT SOME ICE CREAM...
CLACK CLACK

TOK
TOK
FWUP
PAF
PAF
POOF
ALL RIGHT!
MMM! FRESHLY WASHED SHEETS ARE THE BEST!
They smell so good!
WHY CAN'T IT BE NIGHT ALREADY?
WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY ALONE TIME IN FOREVER...
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT HIM TO DO TO ME... ♡
PATTER
ALL NIGHT LONG!
Oooh yeah!
PATTER
BRRNG

OH YEAH! THIS CAME OUT WELL!
NEXT..."LET IT COOL AND ALLOW THE FLAVORS TO MINGLE FOR..."
PORK
BEEP♪
WUP
ACK! THE BRAISED PORK!
I HAVE TO TURN OFF THE BURNER!
BRRNG
GRAB
COMING! HELLO?
WHAT'S UP? TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING OFF EARLY!
BRRNG♪
PORK
BRRNG♪
BRRNG

WHAT?
YOU CAN'T COME TONIGHT?
WHY NOT?!
WE'VE GOT THIS BREWER SUDDENLY COMING IN FROM OUT OF TOWN...
...AND I HAVE TO BE THERE FOR HIM.
SORRY.
I SEE...
COULD YOU COME LATER ON?
NAH. WE'LL PROBABLY BE DRINKING AND CAROUSING UNTIL MORNING.
OH...
OKAY.
I'M SORRY...
NO, NO...IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
NEXT TIME, THEN.
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU.
NEXT TIME FOR SURE, OKAY?
YEAH.

CAN YOU GO PICK HIM UP FROM THE STATION IN A FEW MINUTES?
GOT IT.
SHU-SAKU?
...
CLICK

YEAH. I TOLD HIM TO WAIT FOR YOU OUTSIDE THE TICKET GATE.
IT'S FINE.
I NEED TO GO TO YAESU, RIGHT?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE PLANS, DID YOU?
IS THIS OKAY?
CREAK

SNIFF
FLOP
WHAT THE HELL?!
HE'S SUCH A JERK!
WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN TWO WEEKS!!
SCREW THAT VISITING BREWER!
Take a hike!
THUMP
...
It's the first time I've ever had beer in the house...
And I even bought beer for Shu.
I'M BEING SO PETTY.
It just makes me feel worse...
YOU IDIOT!
I'M NOT GONNA CHILL IT FOR YOU!
JUST FOR THAT, YOU CAN DRINK LUKEWARM BEER!

BWA HA HA!
BWA HA HA!
HOW ABOUT IT? ISN'T OUR SAKE AMAZING THIS YEAR?
NOT THAT IT ISN'T AMAZING EVERY YEAR!
COME ON, NOW! OUR NEW SAKE IS FAR BETTER!
YOU NEED TO TRY THAT OTHER BOTTLE! HEY, HARUNA!
HARUNA! BRING UP THE AGED SAKE! YOU KNOW, THE TEN-YEAR-OLD BATCH!
OKAY ...
...BUT DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH, OKAY?
DON'T YOU WORRY! JUST BRING ON THE SAKE!
OKAY, OKAY!
SHUSAKU! WHADDYA THINK OF OUR NEW SAKE?
IT'S GOOD.
IT IS, ISN'T IT? HERE, TRY THE ARABASHIRI!
My cup wasn't empty yet...
GEE, THANKS.
DRINK UP! DRINK UP!!
BWA HA HA!
GLUG
GLUG

TA-DA!
Sorry to keep you waiting!!
Wakatake Brewery's rarest vintage!
One sip of our rare stuff and you'll flip out!
Ooh, that's got great color! Haruna, sit down with us!

HERE'S SOME WATER.
WANT ANY MORE SAKE?
THANKS.
HELL NO.

AWW, YOU'RE GIVING UP ALREADY?
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH WE DRANK?
We emptied THREE WHOLE BOTTLES!
The other two are already asleep...
SNORE

SIGH

ZOOM
...
23:06
Haruna
Haruna
Haruna
Haruna
Haruna
Haruna
Haruna
CHIK
CHIK
I COULD GO FOR SOME MORE.
LA LA♪
...
LA LA♪
Seriously?
You lush!
DINNER ALL ALONE. BRAISED PORK BOWL. I PUT ON TONS OF MAYONNAISE!
JEEZ ...
BEEP
WHAT'S BETTER AFTER DINNER THAN ICE CREAM? I'M GONNA EAT IT ALL MYSELF!
HE'S GONNA GET FAT.
Look at all that!
BEEP
THAT LOOKS GREAT..

ALL THAT ICE CREAM MADE ME THIRSTY. SODA? NOT TONIGHT! I'M GONNA HAVE ME A BEER!
BEEP
FREE
ZERO
NON-ALCOHOLIC BEER
NON-ALCOHOLIC BEER...
DOES THAT EVEN TASTE GOOD?
BEEP
IT'S SO BITTER. THIS IS GROSS. IS THIS WHAT BEER TASTES LIKE? I FEEL DRUNK. I'M DRUNK! I KNOW I AM!
COME NURSE ME!
But man, does he look like crap there.
HE CAN'T BE DRUNK.
FREE
ZERO
LOOK, CANS OF BEER.
WAIT, THAT'S REAL BEER!
IS HE GOING TO DRINK THAT?
The BEER
BEEP
Heh...

I'VE GOT REAL BEER FOR YOU, SHU. COME OVER AND HAVE A DRINK. IF YOU DON'T HURRY, IT'LL GO BAD!
IT'S NOT GONNA GO BAD...
I THINK I'LL TAKE A BATH TO KILL TIME BEFORE BED. I'M TOTALLY NAKED RIGHT NOW. BRR!
THAT IDIOT ...
GIVE ME A CALL WHEN YOU GET THIS TEXT IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LATE IT IS. I JUST WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!

SNERRK
CLICK
OH, WAIT!
BEFORE YOU GO, TUCK THOSE TWO INTO...
BED? ALREADY DONE.
BATH
FLUSH
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO AT THIS HOUR?
TAKING A WALK.
I'M GONNA SLEEP AT MY PLACE.
ZZZ
OH. WELL, OKAY, BUT...
ARE YOU SURE? YOU'RE WASTED.
I'M NOT WASTED.
SWAY
SWAY
YOU BIG LIAR.
You can't even walk straight!

COME BACK HOME TOMORROW, OKAY?
OKAY.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
THE MEN IN THIS FAMILY SURE ARE FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE!
Brr, it's cold! And so is this sake!
SAKE BASICS
UH...THE CULTURE?
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KIMOTO ZUKURI AND YAMAHAI JIKOMI?
Who could it be at this hour?
AM 1 06
DING DONG

The Scent of Apple Blossoms

DING DONG
AM 1 06
The Scent of Apple Blossoms

!
EEEP
WHO COULD IT BE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
CLICK
SHU!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I DUNNO... I JUST AM.
WELL, THAT'S GREAT!
COULD IT BE? IS HE FINALLY FAINTING BEFORE MY CHARMS?
ER... WHAT'S UP?
FLOP
OOMPH...
He reeks...
WHOOO
...of sake.
...
He smells like my manager...

HOW'D YOU GET HERE? THE TRAINS DON'T RUN THIS LATE. DON'T TELL ME YOU DROVE...
WHO D'YA THINK I AM? I TOOK A TAXI.
OH, OKAY.
Thank God...
SWAY
SWAY
A...ARE YOU DRUNK?
NAH, I'M SHOBER.
HUH?!
I MEAN... UM... OKAY.
THUD
THUD
THUD

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM THIS DRUNK BEFORE.
HE'S TOTALLY WASTED.
This is new...

ARE YOU OKAY? WANT SOME WATER?
...BEER.

GLUG
GLUG
CLINK

YOU GOT MY TEXTS!
OH!
WHY ARE YOU SO HUNG UP ON...
BUT...I CAME... TO DRINK BEER...
You're barely upright and you want more booze?
BEER?! ARE YOU KIDDING?!
JUST DRINK THE WATER!
RUB
RUB
HE'S KIND OF...
GULP
GULP
AW...
DON'T WAN' ANY...
THAT'S RIGHT! I BOUGHT YOU BEER!
MAKE UP YOUR MIND!
You can't reason with drunks!!
Already chilled!
WELL, AS LONG AS I'VE GOT IT...
IS HE GONNA GET PISSED?
GRAB
QUIT IT.
HEY!
The usual pattern.
...ADOR-ABLE!

YOU'RE DRUNK.
MMM...
Ooh, hey...
This is different.
YOU DON'T WANNA SLEEP WITH ME WHEN I'M DRUNK?
Whoa.

I'M OKAY IF YOU'RE OKAY.
IT'S FINE...

MM...

HA HA...
YOU SMELL LIKE SAKE.
GASP
HEE.

HEE HEE... IT'S JUST...
Ha ha!
NO, NO! IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME!
WELL, EXCUSE ME!
PISSED OFF
IF IT'S SO GROSS, I CAN STOP.
I FEEL LIKE KISSING YOU COULD GET ME DRUNK.
CHU
IF I GET DRUNK, WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF ME?
It's not gross! It's not gross!!
HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHY ARE YOU STOPPING? ARE YOU MAD?
FLUFF
?

YOU ARE SO GODDAMN CUTE.
HUH?
WHAT'S WITH YOU? I KNEW YOU WERE DRUNK!
I'M NOT DRUNK.
NO, YOU'RE DRUNK.
OKAY, SO I'M DRUNK.
...
Totally unreasonable!
BUT...
...I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT SO.

I DUNNO.
R... REALLY?
HMM?
ALWAYS, LIKE SINCE WHEN?
SHU?
GASP
COME ON, SHU!
BUT... OH...
PIPE DOWN.
YANK
FORGET IT. FOCUS.
MM...
YANK
AH...
SHU...
SLUP

SUCK
DRIP
WHEW...
ENOUGH.
AH...
WHY? JUST A LITTLE MORE...
HFF
IT'S FINE.
HEY...
GSH
OOH...
AH...

SH... SHU...
YOU'RE SO IMPATIENT TONIGHT...
SHUT UP, YOU.
AH...
GRP
MM...
GCH
AAH...
AH...
MMM...
MMM...
AHH
OH...
OOH...

CHIRP
CHIRP
That was our first time in two weeks... and Shu was like an *animal.* ♡
Two weeks.
CHIRP
Viva ☆ Drunk Shu!
God, he was so incredible last night. ♡
...UP ...
HMM?
SHUT THE HELL UP!
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!
UGH ...
SNUGGLE
HMM?
ARE YOU AWAKE, SHU?
ARE YOU HUNGRY? LET'S HAVE BREAK-FAST...
...UP ...
IT'S SO NICE OUT!

He looks like crap!
WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHEN DID YOU COME OVER?
WHAT?!
WHAT? WE'RE AT MY HOUSE! YOU CAME OVER LAST NIGHT!
Shu looking gross? Inconceivable!
...
...I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.
WHAT?!
DON'T YELL.
CLINK
UGH... I FEEL COMPLETELY OUT OF IT.
WHAT A MORNING. I'M NEVER DRINKING AGAIN.
THUD
THUD
ARE YOU OKAY?
I know how you feel!!
...
SO YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?
UH ...
I REMEMBER WE FINISHED OFF TWO MAGNUMS ...
...AND THEN GRAMPS STARTED STRIP-PING...
WHAT ABOUT AFTER YOU CAME HERE?
WHY'D I COME HERE?

I GUESS I WAS A PAIN IN THE ASS LAST NIGHT.
SORRY.
SNIFF
I HAVE VAGUE MEM-ORIES ...
...BUT I WASN'T MYSELF AT ALL.
SHOOF
SO THE SWEET SHU OF LAST NIGHT WAS JUST AN ILLU-SION?
NOT FAIR ...
...
THE THINGS PEOPLE SAY WHEN THEY'RE DRUNK... IS THAT HOW THEY REALLY FEEL?
EVEN IF THEY DON'T REMEMBER IT?
HEY!
WHO KNOWS?
BUT I'D SAY DRUNKEN CONFESSIONS USUALLY HAVE SOME TRUTH.

LET ME IN, LET ME IN! I'LL SLEEP WITH YOU!
...
I wanna sleep alone...
SAKE HAS TERRIBLE POWERS
JEEZ, WHAT GOT INTO ME?
HMMPH
I'M GONNA GO BACK TO SLEEP FOR A WHILE.
I DON'T NEED ANY BREAK-FAST.
OKAY ...
OH! ME TOO!
HUH?
WOO HOO!
HURRY AND GET IN. IT'S COLD.
...
FWAP
POOF
MOVE OVER A LITTLE.
SNUGGLE
OH, COME ON. NO CUDDLING! YOU'RE MAKING MY HEAD HURT!
SNUGGLE
SORRY, SORRY!
Ha ha ha!
SNUGGLE

SNUGGLE
SNUGGLE
STOP BY MY PLACE AGAIN NEXT TIME YOU'RE DRUNK, OKAY?
...
SO...
YEAH?
IF I REMEMBER.
BUT I'M NOT GONNA DRINK FOR A LONG TIME...
NOOO! YOU SHOULD DRINK!
HEY! I'VE GOT BEER!
LIKE ONE BEER WOULD GET ME DRUNK...
AND DON'T TALK ABOUT BOOZE RIGHT NOW!

BRRNG BRRNG!
HELLO, HARUNA.
MUCCHAN, WHERE ARE YOU?
The Scent of Apple Blossoms
What a beautiful spring day...
HEADING FOR THE BREWERY NOW. I'LL BE THERE SOON.
THANK GOODNESS! GRANDPA IS READY AND RARING TO GO!
HA HA! I'D BETTER HURRY, THEN!
I CAN SEE THE ROOF OF THE BREWERY NOW.
MY BROTHER JUST WENT TO CLOSE UP. IF THE DOOR'S NOT OPEN, GO AROUND THE BACK.
WILL DO!
OH, RIGHT! I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...

OH YEAH? MAYBE I SHOULDN'T COME OVER, THEN...
WE'VE GOT ONE EXTRA GUEST.
OOH
NO! IF YOU DON'T COME OVER, GRANDPA WILL SULK!
Huh?
Ooh! ♡
My sweetie
SQUEEZE
Whaaaaat?!!
ANYWAY, IT'S JUST A RELATIVE...
...HA...
HA HA...

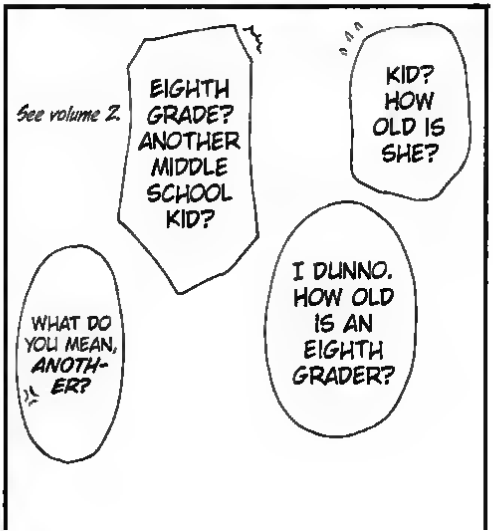
MUCCHAN? WHAT IS IT?
Cherry trees at dusk. Premonition of a storm ...
EEK!
MUCCHAN?
...in falling blossoms.
The Scent of Apple Blossoms

UGH...
THIS IS GONNA GET MESSY...
Hey!
Don't cling to him!!
Why is he flirting with some girl?
GO ON INSIDE, RIO.
HE'S OUR GUEST.
Let's run for it!
WHO'S THAT?
He looks dangerous!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHU?
I'LL BE IN SOON.
"Rio" ?!!
"Shu" ?!!
...
...
BREWERY

PATTA
PATTA
PATTA
SKFF
SKFF
THUNK
HEY, THAT GIRL...
...IS MY COUSIN.
DIDN'T HARUNA TELL YOU?
OH YEAH... SHE SAID A RELATIVE WAS VISITING.

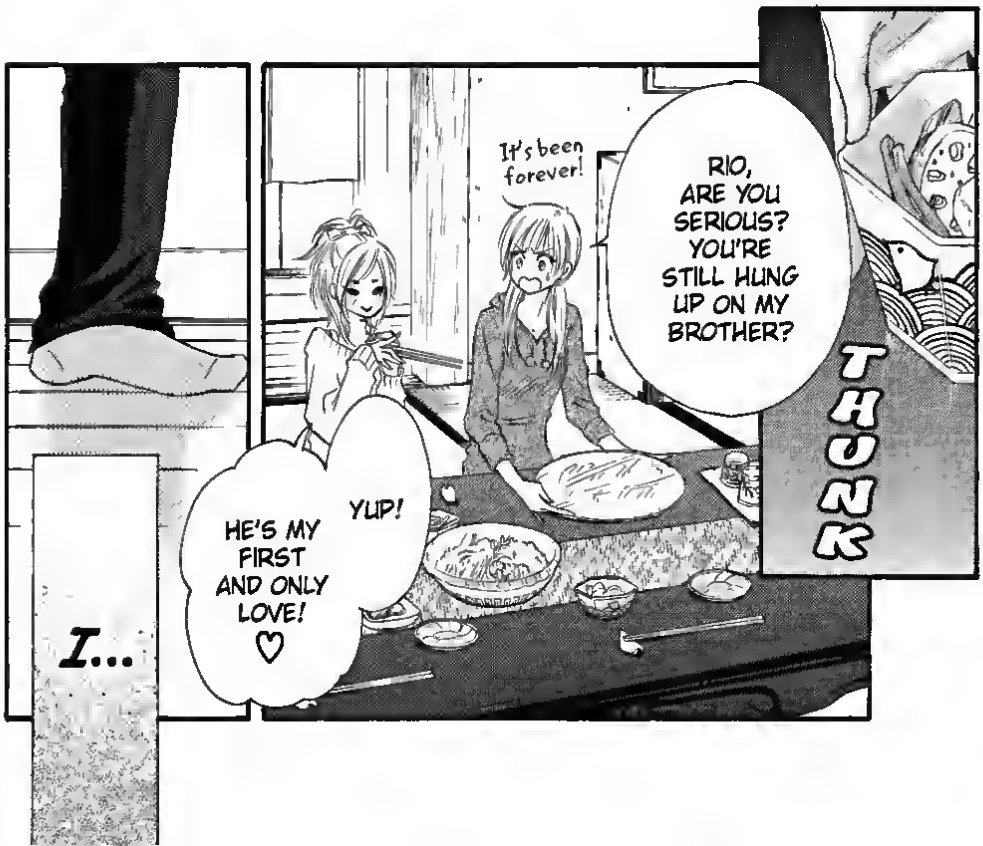
THERE YOU GO.
Stack this on that pile over there.
Okay!
TOSS
BUT...WHY WERE YOU FLIRTING WITH YOUR COUSIN?
I WASN'T. THE KID WAS JUST FOOLING AROUND.

LOOK, I'M NOT YOU. I DON'T GO AROUND *HUGGING* EVERYONE.
I...I DON'T HUG... EVERY...
...mutter mutter...


KID? HOW OLD IS SHE?
EIGHTH GRADE? ANOTHER MIDDLE SCHOOL KID?
I DUNNO. HOW OLD IS AN EIGHTH GRADER?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, *ANOTH-ER?*

See volume 2.

CATCH
OKAY ...
DON'T LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH YOU AGAIN, OKAY?
JUST TAKE THIS IN.
THE SAKE FOR TONIGHT.
I'LL BE IN AFTER I LOCK UP.
OKAY ...


THUNK
RIO, ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU'RE STILL HUNG UP ON MY BROTHER?
It's been forever!
YUP! HE'S MY FIRST AND ONLY LOVE! ♡
I...

I knew it!!
BUT HE MUST SEEM ANCIENT TO YOU, RIO.
DON'T CALL HIM ANCIENT!
NOT AT ALL! HE'S MATURE, AND THAT'S HOT! ♡
ALL THE GUYS AT SCHOOL ARE SO CHILDISH! NOT WORTH MY TIME!
THEY'RE LIKE LITTLE BOYS! THEY'RE BARELY OUT OF GRADE SCHOOL!
The pot calling the kettle black!
HEY, HARUNA.
DOES SHU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND RIGHT NOW?
A GIRL-FRIEND?
You bet he does!
Except for the "girl" part!
I'M NOT SURE.
HE'S NEVER MENTIONED ONE...

Oh, Haruna...
...BUT HE'S BEEN STAYING OUT ALL NIGHT LATELY, SO MAYBE HE'S SEEING SOMEONE.
OH, MUCCHAN MIGHT KNOW!
Don't go there...
IS MUCCHAN THAT GUY I JUST MET?
YUP! THEY'RE GOOD FRIENDS, SO MAYBE HE KNOWS.
LOOM
BDMP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
!!
ASK HIM FOR ME, HARUNA. BUT BE CASUAL AND STUFF.
ME? WELL...I MAY DROP A HINT OR TWO.
OKAY. THANKS!
GRAB
ACK!
N-NOTHING! THAT WAS QUICK...
?
OOH. ♡

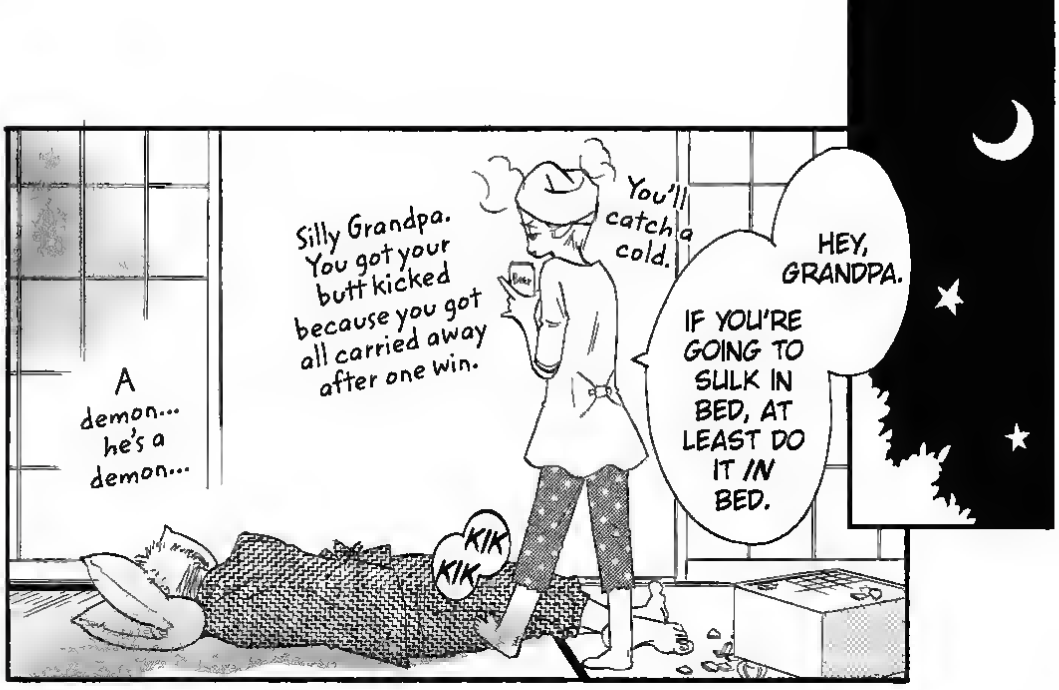
SHU! ARE YOU DONE WITH WORK?
SHU, HELP ME WITH MY HOME-WORK!
YEAH. HERE, HARUNA.
Thanks!
WE'RE EATING SOON. I'LL DO IT AFTER.
OKAY. YOU PROMISE?
THE USUAL
Knock it off!
I'm kind of jealous ...
Shu's so gentle with her.
I mean, she's a girl, and his cousin, but still...
WHAT FOR?
I'M JUST GOING TO CHANGE.
MAYBE I'LL COME WITH YOU!
RIO...I CAN'T MOVE MY ARM.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? IT'S DINNER-TIME.
HM? OH, RIGHT.
OH, HARUUU-NA...
Where's my ,,,, brother?
He went to change.
HE WAS WAITING FOR YOU, BUT HE HAD TO GO SEE A NEIGHBOR ABOUT SOMETHING.
ONCE HE GETS BACK WE'LL HAVE DINNER.
WHERE'S THE MASTER BREWER?
WHAT'S UP, MUCCHAN? SIT DOWN.
Here's a cushion.

JOLT
Oh, crap... she asked me...
HEY, MUCCHAN. I KNOW THIS IS KIND OF RANDOM...
...BUT DO YOU KNOW IF MY BROTHER IS SEEING ANYONE?
UH...
Oh, I know.
...GOOD QUESTION.
BUT I CAN'T SAY IT...
I'M NOT SURE. SORRY.
AWW...
THAT'S OKAY! HE'S A SECRETIVE GUY.
He never tells me anything!
I JUST THOUGHT I'D ASK.
HMM... WELL, THEN...
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT HIS *TYPE* IS?
HIS TYPE?
Me, I guess?

GRAB
ENOUGH WITH THE POINTLESS GOSSIP!
!!
SHU'S TYPE IS...
HIS TYPE IS...
HOW DO I ANSWER THIS ONE?
I DON'T HAVE ONE.
You don't? Hey!
SHU, WHAT'S YOUR TYPE?
IT'S NOT POINT-LESS!
CHAKKA
I'm home!
WHY DO YOU EVEN WANT TO KNOW?
COME ON, SHU!
HEY, GRAMPS IS BACK.
MAN, THIS GIRL IS RELENT-LESS.
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...
I can
GOOD QUES-TION.
THEN DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

He sure is good...
...at playing it cool.
AWW ...
CLACK
THAT'S A PERFECT HAND, ISN'T IT?
HOW ABOUT ...
...THAT?
HEY! FEAST YOUR EYES!
THEY'RE... SO... CLOSE!
Man, I've forgotten all this stuff! It's too much for me!
The last... uh...this one?
So use that last formula there...

UM...
"Moo"? Are you calling me a moo cow?
YIPE
YES?
HEY, MU!
YOU'VE BEEN GAWKING AROUND THE ROOM THIS WHOLE GAME.
NO FAIR. I WAS SPACING OUT...
BWA HA HA! I WIN AT LAST!
HURRY UP AND MOVE!
BWA HA HAA!
I know all your moves!
THIS SUCKS! I'VE GOT NO WAY OUT!!
HEY! WHEN DID YOU DO THAT?
I'll win this time!
FINE! ONE MORE GAME!
BWA HA HA HA!
SO MEAN!
BRING IT ON!
I don't have a single blind spot!
SIGH
DON'T BE A SORE LOSER! ACCEPT YOUR DEFEAT LIKE A MAN!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY DOZENS OF TIMES I'VE WAITED FOR YOU? JUST THIS ONCE, YOU CAN...
Umm...
THEY'RE SO NOISY...


HEY, GRANDPA.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SULK IN BED, AT LEAST DO IT IN BED.
You'll catch a cold.
Silly Grandpa. You got your butt kicked because you got all carried away after one win.
A demon... he's a demon...
KIK KIK

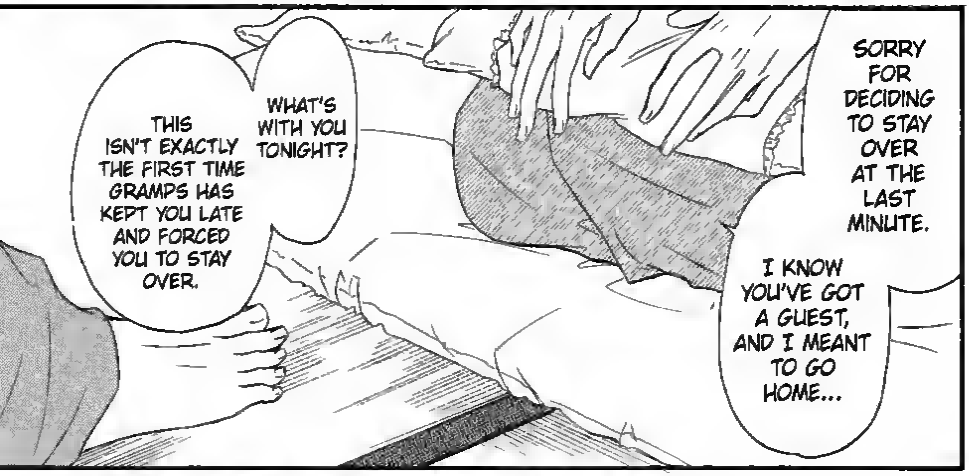
Like this?
PUFF
Maybe a little closer...
PUFF

WELCOME BACK. ♡
I LAID OUT THE FUTONS ...

...BUT I COULD ONLY FIND ONE PILLOW.

...

Where did this come from?
PSHH
TSUMP
BUT THAT'S OKAY! I CAN REST MY HEAD IN YOUR ARMS-
!!


SORRY FOR DECIDING TO STAY OVER AT THE LAST MINUTE.
I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A GUEST, AND I MEANT TO GO HOME...
WHAT'S WITH YOU TONIGHT?
THIS ISN'T EXACTLY THE FIRST TIME GRAMPS HAS KEPT YOU LATE AND FORCED YOU TO STAY OVER.

YEAH, BUT...
?

I'M SORRY.
I WAS BEING REALLY SELFISH...
I STILL HAVE NO CLUE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I TOLD YOU, WE WEREN'T EMBRACING!
IT REALLY SUCKS...
...TO WATCH YOUR BOYFRIEND EMBRACING SOMEONE ELSE.
YEAH, I KNOW.
THAT WAS JUST A HUG.
IT WASN'T EVEN A HUG.
I'M NOT YOU. I DON'T HUG.

I GOT SO JEALOUS, I COULDN'T ADMIT TO MYSELF THAT I ACT JUST LIKE THAT GIRL.
YEAH ...
THEN I REALIZED... THAT'S HOW I MAKE YOU FEEL.
THAT'S TRUE...
I'M SORRY.
WHY IS IT...
...BUT WE JUST GET *UGLIER?*
SNIFF
...THAT WHEN WE'RE IN LOVE, WE WANT TO BE BEAUTIFUL, BODY AND SOUL...
I FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT, GETTING JEALOUS OVER SOMETHING SO PETTY.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I DID.
I *DO* TRUST YOU, AFTER ALL...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT DRUNK?

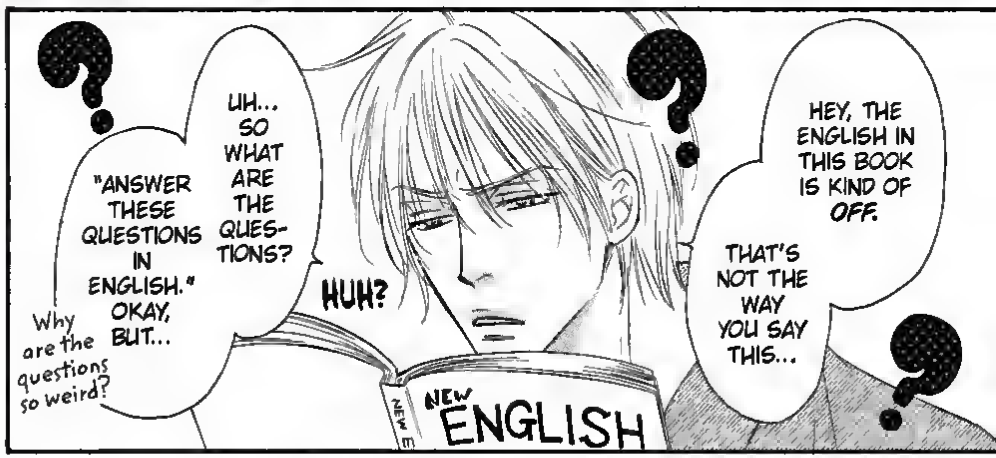
RIO'S JUST...
YEAH.
I DON'T LIKE THAT EITHER.
YOU CALLING HER...
...RIO.
YOU NEVER CALL ME BY MY NAME.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS?
OF COURSE I DO.
SAY IT.
...
MUTSUKI HARUNA.
!!
NG...

MUTSUKI.
SAY IT AGAIN.
PAF
MUTSUKI.

CHAAK
I NEED SOME MORE HELP WITH MY HOMEWORK!
SHU!
SURE, FINE.
HOLD ON A SEC.
SHU?
CAN YOU ...?
?
SHOOF
Is she embarrassed by his bare chest?
Y-YEAH.
AND ENGLISH ...
MORE MATH?

She's still just a kid.
HAVE THAT GUY HELP YOU WITH ENGLISH.
HE MAY NOT LOOK BRIGHT, BUT HE'S BILINGUAL.
HUH?
WHAT?
I BET YOU STUDY REALLY HARD, HUH?
Sorry about the outfit.
CHING
UH... YEAH. WELL...
...I HAVE MY HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS THIS YEAR, SO...
OH YEAH!
I'M FLUENT IN ENGLISH! JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
YOU'RE BI-LINGUAL?
DID YOU, LIKE, STUDY ABROAD OR SOME-THING?
I WAS BORN IN THE U.S.
Any pretext...
...to be with him as much as possible.

HUH?
OKAY! SO, UM...IT SAYS, "READ THE ENGLISH PARAGRAPH AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW."
?
Ack!
Especially because he seems so unreachable ...


"ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS IN ENGLISH." OKAY, BUT...
UH... SO WHAT ARE THE QUES-TIONS?
Why are the questions so weird?
HUH?
HEY, THE ENGLISH IN THIS BOOK IS KIND OF OFF.
THAT'S NOT THE WAY YOU SAY THIS...
NEW ENGLISH

FLICK
YOU DOING OKAY THERE?
YOU'RE SO USELESS...
...
These questions are really stilted.
...
ENGLISH

UTTER FAILURE.
That's right...
I suck at Engrish.
BUT THIS ENTIRE PARA-GRAPH IS MESSED UP!
GULP
GRAB
ENOUGH ALREADY. SHOVE OVER.
Shu!
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
Just try ta translate the words you understand...
...

THWACK
SNIFF
CREAK
COME ON, PAY ATTENTION.
You're so close!
Awww...
GRAB

The Scent of Apple Blossoms

CREAK
CREAK
CRIK
I'M DONE BABY-SITTING.
WHERE'S RIO?
SHE WENT BACK TO HARUNA'S ROOM.

Maybe I need to brush up on my English...
SORRY I COULDN'T BE ANY HELP.
RIO COULDN'T BELIEVE YOU REALLY GREW UP IN THE U.S.
CHK
WELL, IT'LL BE NICE TO HAVE THINGS SO LIVELY.
LOOKS LIKE IT.
IS RIO GOING TO STAY HERE FOR HER WHOLE BREAK?
SHE SAID SHE'S GOING SHOPPING WITH HARUNA TOMORROW.
THEY'RE TOO LIVELY.
SHE'S PRETTY AGGRESSIVE, ISN'T SHE? JUST LIKE I USED TO BE!
JUST THE IDEA OF A FEW MORE DAYS LIKE THAT...
ISN'T IT HARD TO KEEP PRETENDING NOT TO NOTICE?
Ha ha ha!
...HAS ME WIPED OUT.

I KNOW YOU'VE NOTICED.
...
NOTICE WHAT?
WHAT THE HELL? THAT HURT!
KICK
You're too popular, you jerk!
WELL... I DON'T WANT YOU TO DO ANYTHING, BUT STILL...
ALL I CAN DO IS KEEP BRUSHING HER OFF.
PFFT
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
SHE'S MY BABY COUSIN.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
SQUIRM
YEAH, BUT...
...

WHAT?
I WANT TO TELL EVERYONE THAT I'M YOUR BOYFRIEND AND DECLARE OUR LOVE TO THE WORLD.
WHAT?
WHAT'S WITH THE CORNY LINES?
DON'T CHANGE THE SUB-JECT.
TODAY RIO ASKED ME IF YOU HAD A GIRLFRIEND, AND I COULDN'T ANSWER HER.
I WISH I COULD HAVE TOLD HER, "ME!"
I WANT TO BRAG ABOUT YOU TO EVERYONE.
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT.

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST COME OUT OF THE CLOSET!
THEN WE COULD MAKE OUT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.
JUST KIDDING.
I'M ONLY JOKING...
HA HA HA...
...

OKAY.
I'M FINE WITH THAT.
TOSS
SZZZ
IF IT'LL PUT YOU AT EASE...
...I DON'T MIND.

CREAK
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M MAKING OUT IN PUBLIC.
SHU...
...DO YOU MEAN IT?
YEAH.

SNERK!
YEEK
!
!

HE'S SAYING, "DON'T SEDUCE MY BELOVED GRANDSON ..."
DO YOU THINK HE'S KEEPING TABS ON US?
YEEK ...
Th...that freaked me out right there.
SNORT
HEH...
SOB

GO GET CHANGED.
SNIFF
TAF
CREAK
HUH?
TAP
OR YOU CAN KEEP THAT ON.
LET'S GO TO MY PLACE.

HAA...
AH... HOLD ON A SEC... NGH...
MMM...
GET YOUR CLOTHES OFF.
HEY, HOLD ON...
ACK!
KEEP IT DOWN. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
YANK
AREN'T I HEAVY?
YES. Get undressed.
SORRY.
YOU WEIGH ABOUT THE SAME AS A BAG OF RICE.
HOW MUCH DOES A BAG OF RICE WEIGH?
SIXTY KILOS.
BSH
BSH
TMP
TMP

THUP
WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STARTED IT.
THIS IS REALLY NOT A SEXY CONVER-SATION.
CAN'T YOU TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE?
HA HA... YEAH, THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT.
LATELY I MAY BE A LITTLE OVER THAT.
NEVER MIND. JUST BE QUIET.
MMM ...
TALK ABOUT RUDE.
IF I REALLY GOT INTO IT, I COULD-
I'M NOT HOLDING MY BREATH.
MMM ...
YOU WANT SEXY TALK?

AH...
HA HA.
I'M SO GLAD TO BE A GROWN-UP.
CREAK
HFF
HFF
HFF
MMM...
HUH?
IF WE GET HORNY, WE CAN SLIP OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
...AND HAVE SEX ON THE SOFA IN OUR SECRET GETAWAY.
WHEN I WAS A KID I COULD NEVER...
OOOH...
YOU'RE SUCH A PEST.
CAN'T YOU EVER SHUT UP?
AH...

SHUT UP...
...MUTSUKI.
B
R
R
BUT...
HFF
HEY, SHU...
NGN...
AH...
MM... THAT FELT SO GOOD.
DO THAT... AGAIN ...
SLAP
SUCH... A PEST.

YOU'RE HEAVY, RICE BAG.
YOU'RE SO CRUEL.
NO, YOU SHOULD TURN THAT FAT INTO MUSCLE.
SHOULD I LOSE SOME WEIGHT?
JERK ...
MM...SO WARM.
I'M SO HAPPY. ♡
CLING ♡
CHK
KLIK
SO...
YEAH?
THANKS.
FOR WHAT?
PFF
PFF

I MEANT IT.
...
THANKS.
EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T MEAN IT, IT MADE ME HAPPY.
FOR SAYING WE COULD COME OUT TO EVERYONE.
REALLY?
BUT THINK OF HOW EVERYBODY WOULD FREAK OUT.
I MEAN ...
YOU NEVER KNOW.
SNIFF
IF THAT HAPPENED ...
...THEY MIGHT DISOWN YOU AND KICK YOU OUT OF WAKATAKE...
I'D HATE IT IF THAT HAPPENED ...
WHAT IF YOUR FAMILY FORBADE ME FROM VISITING WAKATAKE?
THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

SHOOF
...I'D JUST GET ANOTHER COMPUTER JOB.
IF THAT HAPPENED ...
WE'RE GROWN-UPS, RIGHT? WE CAN SNEAK OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
...I'M OKAY FOR NOW.
BUT...
YEAH. WE ARE.
RIGHT.

I LOVE HARUNA AND THE MASTER BREWER.
I DON'T WANT TO UPSET THEM.
AND I LOVE SEEING YOU IN YOUR WAKATAKE JACKET.
THE IDEA THAT YOU'D BE OKAY WITH IT IS ENOUGH.
THANK YOU.
CHU
BUT IF SOMEDAY I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE, CAN I TELL THEM?
WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

SWP
WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE BREWERY BEFORE MORNING, YOU KNOW.
GRAB
SO...
RIGHT, OF COURSE.
SWP
HEY.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET ME GET ANY SLEEP, ARE YOU?
BUT IT'S NOT MORNING YET.

I'M JUST SO HAPPY RIGHT NOW.
I FEEL LIKE I NEED TO SHARE IT.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
DON'T BE LIKE THAT. ♡
THAT TICKLES!
Ha ha ha...
SIZZLE

SIZZLE
HARUNA! RIO! GOOD MORNING!
I WOKE UP EARLY AND DECIDED TO MAKE BREAKFAST!
YAY!!
AHHH
WOW!
MUCCHAN, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
THAT SMELLS SO GOOD!
THE HARUNA FAMILY'S SPECIAL CROQUE MONSIEUR.
GRANDPA LOVES TOAST.
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING? IT LOOKS SO GOOD!
DOES THE MASTER BREWER EAT TOAST AT BREAKFAST?
IT'S EASIER THAN IT LOOKS. WANT TO MAKE THEM WITH ME?
I DO! I DO!
OOH! I LOVE THOSE!
HOW DO YOU MAKE THEM?

HEY, ENGLISH!
I REALLY CAN SPEAK ENGLISH!
IN FACT, LET'S DO THE WHOLE COOKING LESSON THAT WAY!
Okay! Let's have fun cooking!
I've got so much more love in my heart...after a night of loving. ♡
I was such a jerk last night. Sorry, Rio.
I'm so stiff... especially my hips...
ARGH ...
HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP!
THEY'RE LEARNING TO COOK.
Aww, leave them to it.
YAWN
WHAT'RE THEY UP TO NOW? THEY NEVER SHUT UP.
Well.. Please the eggs, milk, in a bowl and mix well
Wait, wait! Go slower!
BLAB BLAB
PK
MUCCHAN'S REALLY SOMETHING.
HUH?
DUNNO. HE SHOVED IT IN MY HANDS.
WHAT ARE YOU EATING?
I WANT SOME TOO!
IT LOOKS GOOD!
MNCH MNCH
HMMPH

HE'LL MAKE A GREAT WIFE!
SPIT
UNDER THAT GOOFY EXTERIOR, HE'S MULTI-TALENTED.
MM
HE'S A GREAT COOK, AND HE'S SWEET AND THOUGHTFUL ...
SURE, HE'S A LITTLE OFF, BUT IT'S KIND OF ADORABLE.
WHOSE WIFE?!
WIFE?
KOFF KOFF
OH, I DON'T MEAN LITER-ALLY.
IT'S JUST SOMETHING PEOPLE SAY. YOU KNOW, A GREAT PARTNER.
...
TA DA!
I HELPED!
SHU, HARUNA, LOOK!
OH, THEY LOOK DELICIOUS! ♡
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
THE FIRST BATCH IS DONE!

BLUSH
ER... YEAH!
SO OF COURSE THEY'RE GOOD.
THAT'S BECAUSE RIO AND I MADE THEM TOGETHER.
I'm a grown-up...
What are these pink fluttery things?
?
STOMP
STOMP
GRANDPA! BREAKFAST!
MMM...
WHAT IS IT?
IT SMELLS GREAT!
SQUEE
SQUEE
I KINDA ...
HEY, HARUNA.

I KINDA HAVE A CRUSH ON MUCCHAN. ♡
SQUEE♡
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?
OH, HAVE YOU HAD A CHANGE OF HEART? ARE YOU FINALLY OVER MY BROTHER?
NO! SHU WILL ALWAYS BE MY IDOL, BUT...
I MEAN, HE'S MY COUSIN, YOU KNOW?
SURE. I THINK MUCCHAN'S WAY BETTER ANYWAY.
ISN'T HE? HE'S SO ADOR-ABLE!
AND HE SMELLS GOOD TOO! WHEN WE WERE COOKING, MY HEART WAS BEATING SO FAST!
SQUEE♡
SQUEE♡
HE'S SWEET, AND THOUGHT-FUL, AND CUTE...
...
I HOPE HE CAN SPEND THE NIGHT AGAIN TONIGHT! MAYBE HE CAN TEACH ME ENGLISH!

HEY, GET YOUR BUTT HOME.
GRRR
YOU NEED TO STAY AWAY FOR A WHILE.
HE'S A PETTY MAN.
WHAT?! WHY?!
NEVER MIND WHY.
WHAT ?!!

HELLO? ANYBODY HOME?
The Scent of Apple Blossoms
YEAH?
I'M MATSUMOTO FROM MATSUMOTO LIQUORS.
DEAR ME...I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN SO LONG, I GOT LOST ON THE WAY.
Ha ha ha...
Uh...

The Scent of Apple Blossoms

I'M MATSUMOTO FROM MATSUMOTO LIQUORS IN KYOTO.
Just... why?
A bow tie?
NO, NO, I'M SORRY FOR COMING IN DURING THE BUSY SEASON.
THE MASTER BREWER IS VERY BUSY AT THE MOMENT. MY APOLOGIES.
I'M SO SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

ER...
OH, RIGHT!
MATSU-MOTO LIQUORS!
THE OWNER ALWAYS GAVE US GREAT LITTLE PERKS. THE SHOP'S BEEN IN HIS FAMILY FOR FIVE GENERATIONS, RIGHT?
I HEARD HE RETIRED. HOW IS HE?
RETIREMENT HAS JUST GIVEN HIM MORE ENERGY. HE'S ALWAYS RUNNING AROUND.
Ha ha!
IS THAT SO?
IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, HIS SON-IN-LAW TOOK OVER THE BUSINESS...
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M THE SIXTH-GENERATION OWNER.
I HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TO DO GOOD BUSINESS TOGETHER.
OH, ARE YOU?
FORGIVE ME FOR BEING RUDE!
LET ME GO GET THE MASTER BREWER!
PLEASE DON'T TROUBLE HIM IF HE'S BUSY.
I JUST STOPPED BY TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
AND TO ASK A LITTLE *FAVOR.*
A FAVOR?

Matsumoto Sake
BUT THESE DAYS, IT'S HARD TO GET BY ON JUST THE REGULARS.
WE'RE AN OLD, ESTABLISHED SAKE SHOP, OPEN SINCE 1843.
MOST OF OUR CUSTOMERS ARE LONGTIME REGULARS.
What nice tea.
Thank you.
YES.
I'D LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY APPOINTMENT AS THE NEW OWNER...
...TO OPEN AN ONLINE STORE SEPARATE FROM THE SHOP.
SO I-
HELLO!

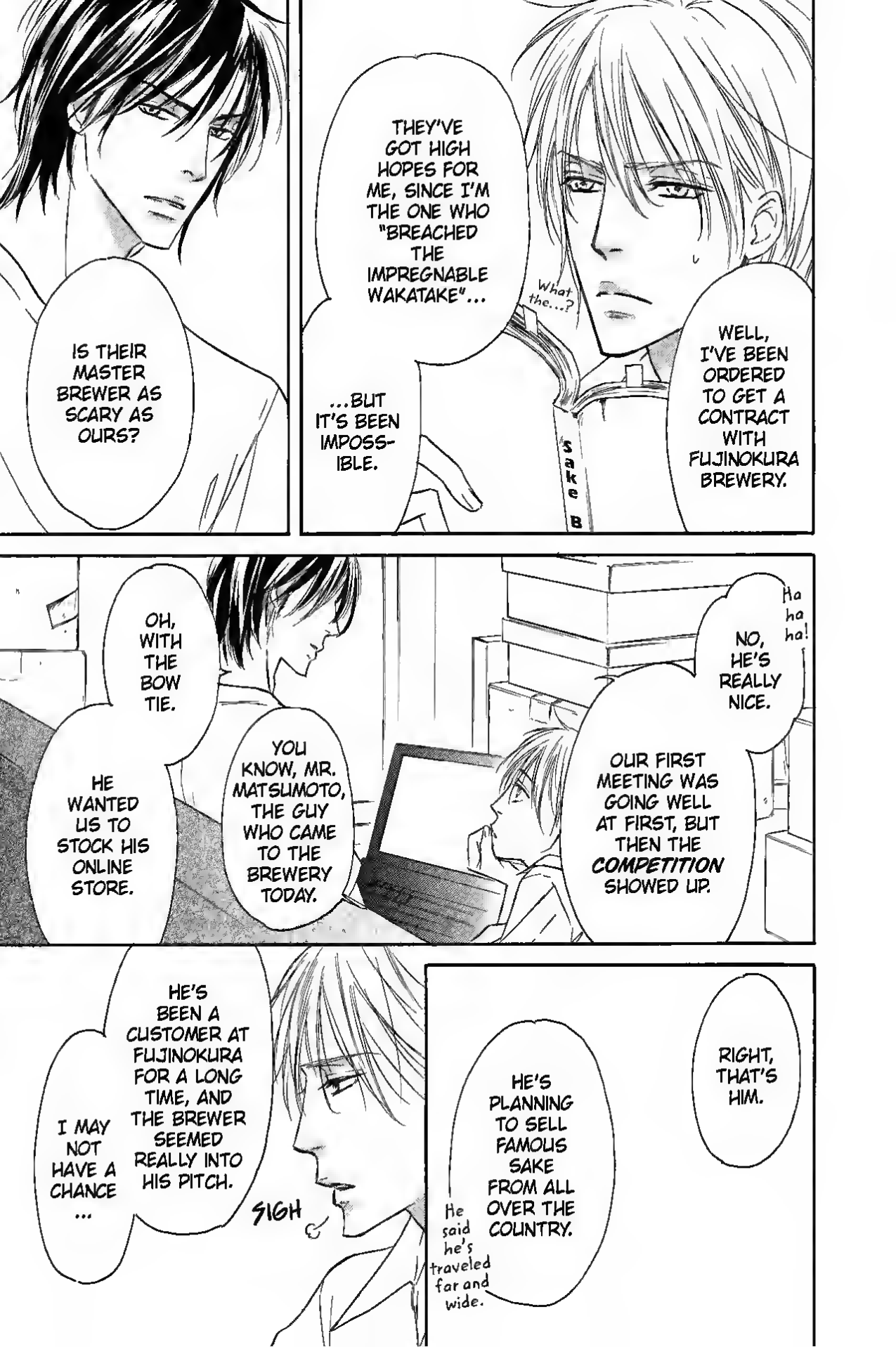
MUCCHAN!
YOU'RE LATE TODAY!
IT'S HARUNA FROM W&F!
IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOU!
HELLO THERE.
WE'VE BEEN RUNNING INTO EACH OTHER A LOT LATELY.
OH...
I'M SORRY. YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME-THING.
EXCUSE ME.
WE MET THE OTHER DAY AT ANOTHER BREWERY.
I WOULDN'T SAY WE'RE ACQUAINTANCES, EXACTLY. MORE LIKE...
HUH? DO YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
YES, WE HAVE.

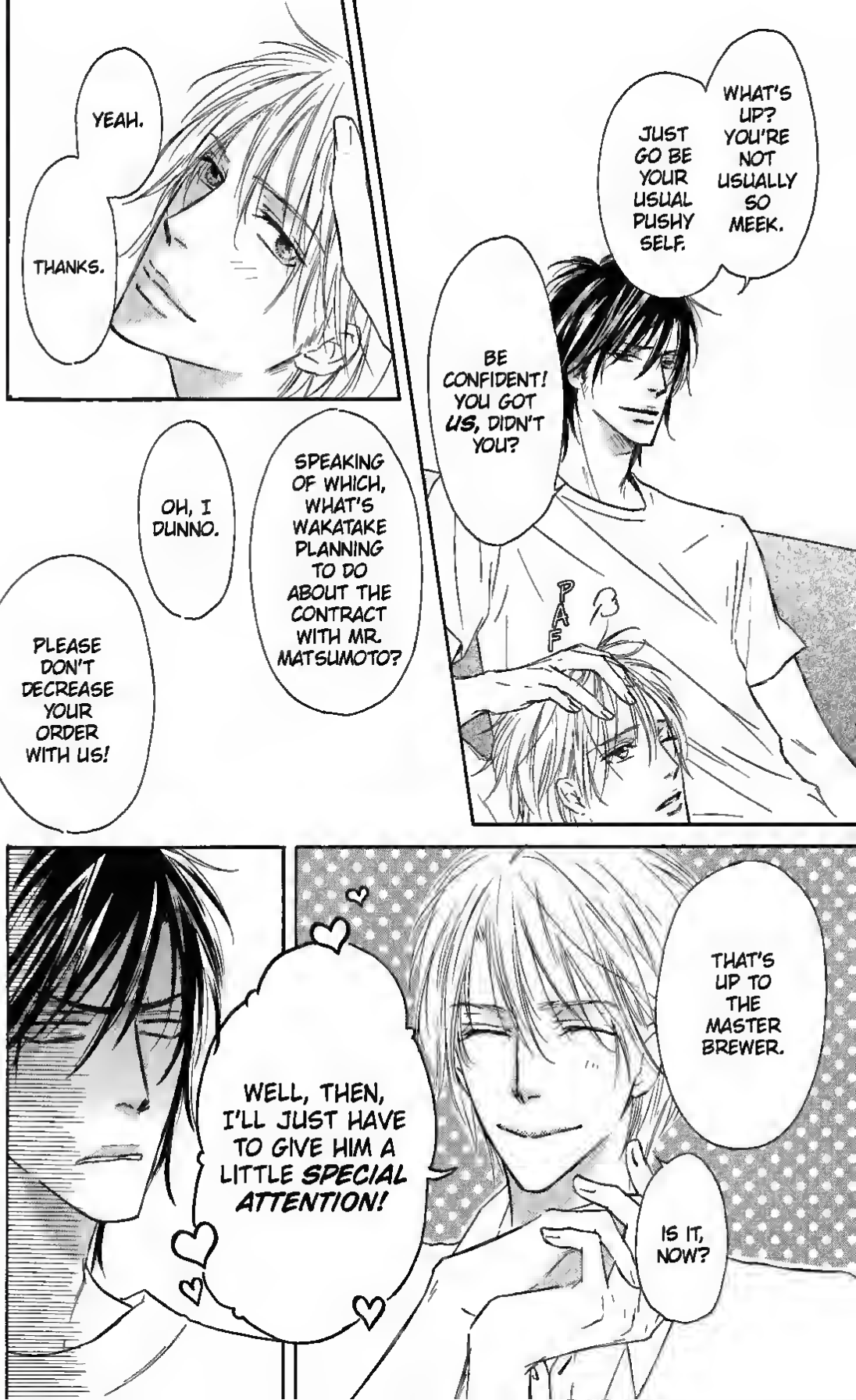
SHOOF
HOW ABOUT A GAME?
AHA
IS THAT MU I HEAR?
SORRY, NO. I'M WORKING RIGHT NOW.
HELLO, SIR!
OH ...
...RIVALS.
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
Ha ha!
HMPH HMPH
?
I'VE GOT AN APPOINT-MENT THEN.
BUT I'LL COME THIS WEEK-END!
WELL, WHEN CAN YOU PLAY?
WHY DON'T YOU STOP BY TONIGHT?
HMM ...
ACTUALLY, I JUST TOOK OVER AS OWNER LAST YEAR.
MASTER BREWER! IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
I'M MATSUMOTO FROM MATSUMOTO SAKE IN KYOTO!
HELLO!
HEY ...
PECK
YES, SIR!
Ha ha..
ALL RIGHT!
REALLY, GRANDPA, NOT AGAIN...
YOU'LL STAY OVERNIGHT, WON'T YOU? WE CAN PLAY AS LONG AS WE WANT!

THE GANG'S ALL HERE.

So about tonight...
Yup.
That was some move you pulled last time!
Like that? It's my secret gambit!
Just leave it to me.
Come on! Oh hey, Mucchan! I've got manju.
Grandpa, Mr. Matsumoto is here to see you!
GRRR
BRRR
...

A rough explanation of the sake making process:
Rice
Malt
Yeast
Lactic Acid
Rice
Malt
Water
x3 or x4
Yeast Mash
Fermentation
Unrefined Sake
Filtration
Unprocessed Sake
I'VE GOT THE BASIC MANUFACTURING PROCESS DOWN...
...BUT THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT VARIETIES CREATED BY TINY DIFFERENCES IN THE BREWING METHOD. IT'S ALL GIBBERISH TO ME.
HUH?
...WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KIMOTO ZUKURI AND YAMAHAI JIKOMI?
Sake Basics
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
ARABA-SHIRI? "RUNNING AMOK"?
DO YOU KNOW FUJINOKURA BREWERY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY'VE BEEN AROUND SINCE THE EDO PERIOD!
THEY'RE LONGTIME FRIENDS OF OURS.
IN FUKUI?
REALLY? I should've known!
WHAT?
WHY HAVE YOU SUDDENLY DECIDED TO LEARN ABOUT SAKE AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
SORRY I PUT IT OFF...
THONK
I've been studying for a while, but it's so confusing


IS THEIR MASTER BREWER AS SCARY AS OURS?
THEY'VE GOT HIGH HOPES FOR ME, SINCE I'M THE ONE WHO "BREACHED THE IMPREGNABLE WAKATAKE"...
...BUT IT'S BEEN IMPOSS-IBLE.
What the...?
WELL, I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO GET A CONTRACT WITH FUJINOKURA BREWERY.
Sake B
OH, WITH THE BOW TIE.
HE WANTED US TO STOCK HIS ONLINE STORE.
YOU KNOW, MR. MATSUMOTO, THE GUY WHO CAME TO THE BREWERY TODAY.
NO, HE'S REALLY NICE.
Ha ha ha!
OUR FIRST MEETING WAS GOING WELL AT FIRST, BUT THEN THE COMPETITION SHOWED UP.
I MAY NOT HAVE A CHANCE ...
HE'S BEEN A CUSTOMER AT FUJINOKURA FOR A LONG TIME, AND THE BREWER SEEMED REALLY INTO HIS PITCH.
SIGH
He said he's traveled far and wide.
HE'S PLANNING TO SELL FAMOUS SAKE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
RIGHT, THAT'S HIM.


YEAH.
THANKS.
WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE NOT USUALLY SO MEEK.
JUST GO BE YOUR USUAL PUSHY SELF.
BE CONFIDENT! YOU GOT US, DIDN'T YOU?
PAF
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT'S WAKATAKE PLANNING TO DO ABOUT THE CONTRACT WITH MR. MATSUMOTO?
OH, I DUNNO.
PLEASE DON'T DECREASE YOUR ORDER WITH US!
THAT'S UP TO THE MASTER BREWER.
IS IT, NOW?
WELL, THEN, I'LL JUST HAVE TO GIVE HIM A LITTLE SPECIAL ATTENTION!

...
TUP
DURING SHOGI! DURING SHOGI!
DURING OUR SHOGI GAME!
PINCH
PINCH
HEY ...
OWW!
HEE
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHEN YOU WERE GOING TO THROW ME DOWN AND HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME.
I've been waiting all this time...
WHAT?
OH, NOTHING... JUST...
STARE
?

I DON'T MIND.
I'M NOT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF.
REALLY ?
CREAK
NOT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, THOUGH...
?
OUCH!
BANG
I'M TELLING YOU I'M NOT!
OOF...
OOPS.
Heh heh...
SORRY.
MMN ...
HEY...
HMM ?
GRIND
OH...

LET'S BUY A BED SOON.
EVEN JUST A SOFA BED.
WHERE WOULD WE PUT A BED?
THERE'S NO ROOM.
THERE WOULD BE IF YOU'D CLEAN UP...
WHAT A PAIN...

Whew, it's hot!
IT'S HARUNA FROM W&F!
HELLO!
FUJINOKURA
Brewery

Hello there.
SORRY, BUT I'M STILL WITH MR. MATSUMOTO ...
...SO IF YOU'D JUST WAIT INSIDE...
OH, NO, THAT'S FINE!
THANKS FOR LETTING ME...
AGAIN?
OH, MR. HARUNA. THANKS FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY IN THE HEAT.
...STOP BY.
Fujimokura
I JUST CAME TO GIVE YOU A LETTER FROM OUR DEPARTMENT HEAD.
HERE YOU ARE!
YOU CAME OUT ALL THIS WAY JUST FOR THAT? THANK YOU!
I HAD A PHONE CALL FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD YESTERDAY. LET HIM KNOW I'LL HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU SOON.
WELL NOW, THAT JUST WOULDN'T WORK, SIR. IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
TUG
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MR. HARUNA?
ER... RIGHT.
MAYBE THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE TO SELL EACH OF YOU *HALF*.
I WISH I COULD SELL TO BOTH OF YOU...
...BUT WE JUST CAN'T PRODUCE THAT MUCH SAKE RIGHT NOW.

ANYWAY, SIR, ABOUT THAT NAMAZAKE YOU'VE BEEN SAVING FOR A WHOLE YEAR...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WOULD YOU LIKE A DRINK, MR. HARUNA? IT'S QUITE THE RARE SAKE.
VERY TRUE.
And I just got to know you both ...
I'LL GIVE YOU EACH AN ANSWER WITHIN THE MONTH.
NO... UM, I'M WORKING, AFTER ALL...
I'M SORRY.
I CAN'T DRINK SAKE.
...
HA HA HA HA HA!
THAT'S HILARIOUS. IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A COMEDY SKIT.
...
What an asshole...
HA HA...
IS THAT SO? THEN HOW ABOUT SOME ICED TEA?
A SAKE SALESMAN WHO CAN'T DRINK SAKE!
Kyo, bring out some tea.

I TOOK OVER MY IN-LAWS' SAKE SHOP BECAUSE I LOVE SAKE SO MUCH.
ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES HAVE ALWAYS JUST BEEN FOLKS WHO REALLY LOVE SAKE.
...
Much as I hate to say it...
...he's abso-lutely right.
No matter how much I learn about sake...
...because I can't drink it, there will always be a wall before me.
Oh my...it's unfiltered, and yet it's so full-bodied, so complex, with such a rich mouthfeel. But it's still so refreshing...
I knew you'd appreciate it, Mr. Matsu-moto.
Maybe I don't belong in sales anymore...

MUCCHAN, THAT'S THE SAME MISTAKE YOU JUST MADE!
I-I'M SORRY!
UMM...
EEK!
THWACK
ONCE MORE FROM THE TOP!
THWACK
YES, MA'AM!
WRONG!
WHAM
IF YOU CAN JUST GET THE BREWING PROCESS STRAIGHT, YOU'LL BE GOLDEN.
UH... THE FIRST SAKE FROM THE PRESS IS ARABASHIRI.
OKAY!
SNIFF
FIZZ
FIZZ
IT'S CHARACTERIZED BY CLOUDINESS, AND MANY TYPES ARE CARBONATED...
HOW DOES IT TASTE?

AN IRON FAN?
FRESH, WITH A CLEAN FRAGRANCE.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
I DON'T CARE IF YOU PLAY AROUND, BUT I HOPE YOU LOCKED UP THE BREWERY.
ALL RIGHT!
ONE STEP AT A TIME!
THWACK
THWACK
THWACK
COR-RECT!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
YOU'RE REALLY TAKING THIS SERIOUS-LY.
BUT HOW CAN A GUY WHO CAN'T DRINK SAKE DO A TASTE TEST?
HMM ...
I locked up.
OH, WELCOME HOME.
OOH!
WE'RE NOT PLAYING! I'M TUTORING MUCCHAN ON SAKE.
A suit!! It's been too long!!
WHAT COMES AFTER ARABA-SHIRI?
Yup. I was just helping out.
Why the suit? Systems engineering job?
OKAY, ON TO THE NEXT ONE!
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT! RIGHT, MUCCHAN?
EVEN IF HE CAN'T DRINK IT, HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE BASIC TYPES BY COLOR OR FRAGRANCE.

I made dinner.
Oh yeah? What is it?
Japanese-style stew with braised beef tongue.
Sounds great. I'll have beer, then.
OH, MUCCHAN ...
HI-YA!
THWACK
HEY!
AHH!
DO YOU WANNA DO THIS OR NOT?
I-I'M SORRY!
I DO! LET'S GO!!
...
The Scent of Apple Blossoms

PLONK
MY NOSE IS ALL MESSED UP FROM SMELLING SAKE.
MAN ...
...I'M TIRED.
HARUNA'S A TOUGH TEACHER.
WITH SOME SHOGI IN BETWEEN.
HAVE YOU BEEN AT IT SINCE DINNER?
DRINK THIS. IT WAS LEFT OVER!
...
NAKA-DORI.
GULP
WHAT THE HELL?
IS HARUNA TESTING ME NOW, TOO?
Ha ha...
FIGURED THAT OUT, HUH?
SO? CAN YOU TELL WHAT IT IS?
WHEE
These two never leave sake behind.
WHEE

The master brewer got them all right too!
RIGHT!
THAT'S AMAZING! YOU KNEW RIGHT AWAY!
OF COURSE I KNOW IT. IT'S OUR OWN SAKE.
NOTHING AMAZING ABOUT THAT.
ARE YOU KIDDING?
I CAN ONLY RECOGNIZE ARABASHIRI AND SHIBORITATE.
Cloudy and fizzy.
YOU'RE JUST GOING FROM THE WAY THEY LOOK.
THE REAL DIFFERENCES ARE IN THE TASTE.
YEAH, BUT...
I GUESS THAT GUY WAS RIGHT.
A SAKE SALESMAN WHO CAN'T DRINK SAKE.
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A COMEDY SKIT...

I DON'T INTEND TO GIVE UP...
...BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS I JUST CAN'T HELP.
IS IT FUJINO-KURA? HE BEING TOUGH ON YOU?
HEY...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
FLOP
IT'S SO MORTIFYING TO STAND THERE ARE TAKE THE ABUSE. BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET IT STOP ME!

I DON'T KNOW.
HE WAS REALLY NICE...EVEN AFTER HE FOUND OUT I CAN'T DRINK.
BUT I GOT SO *ENVIOUS* WATCHING MR. MATSUMOTO DRINKING AND LIVING IT UP WITH HIM.
I FELT SO DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF...
SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SPEND ALL THIS TIME COMPLAINING ABOUT WORK.
SNUGGLE

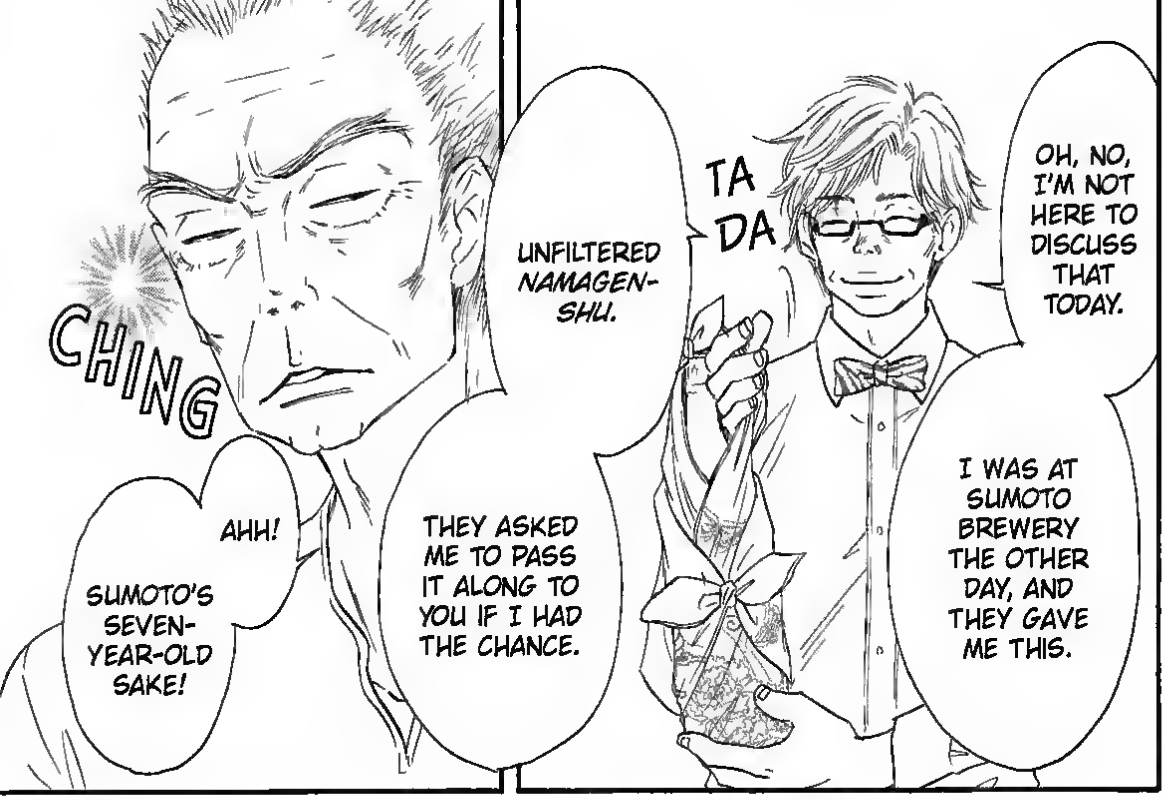
FUJINOKURA'S AN OLD FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.
WANT US TO PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU?
I DON'T THINK I COULD DO MUCH MYSELF...
...BUT I BET GRAMPS AND HARUNA WOULD GIVE YOU A HAND.

MM...
THANKS.
THAT'S OKAY. I'LL BE FINE.
YOU SURE?
YEAH.
BELIEVE ME, IT'S AN ENTICING OFFER.
BUT I'D HATE TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE FOR WAKATAKE.
AND I SHOULDN'T MIX BUSINESS AND PLEASURE ANY MORE THAN I ALREADY DO.
BUT I REALLY APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT.

I LIKE THAT WE HAVE THIS WORK CONNECTION, YOU KNOW.
SO I'VE KEPT AT IT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH TROUBLE I CAUSE, BUT...I DUNNO.
THANK YOU.
MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER TO GIVE THIS JOB TO SOMEONE BETTER SUITED TO IT.
The right person in the right place.
UGH... SO SLEEPY.
I THINK I'M DRUNK.
JUST FROM SMELLING SAKE?
THAT'S SOME METABOLISM.
HEY, DON'T FALL ASLEEP ON MY LAP.
UGH...
WUP
WUP

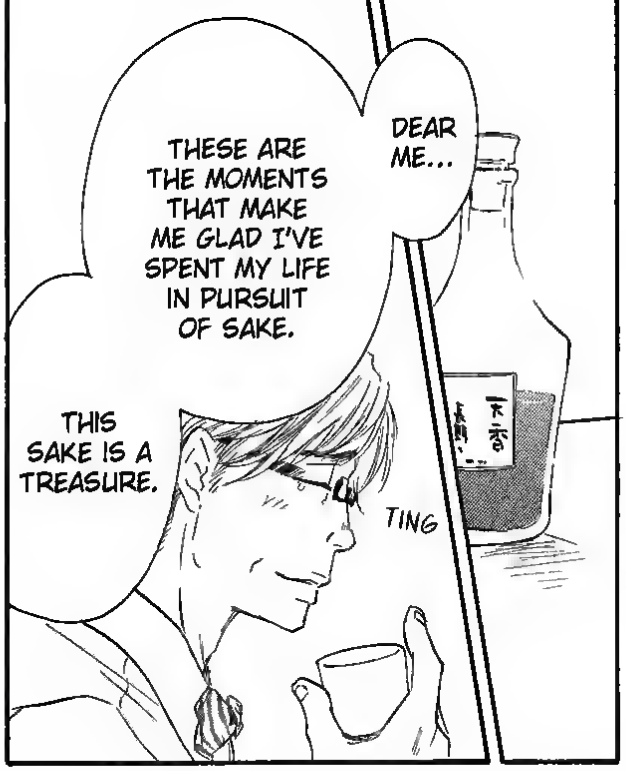
YOU'RE SO WARM ...

HELLO THERE, SIR.
IT'S MATSUMOTO, COME TO PAY YOU ANOTHER VISIT.
This heat won't quit, huh?
I DON'T HAVE ANY SAKE FOR YOU.
HMPH
NOT FOR YOU AND YOUR INTER-WEBS ...
...OR WHAT-EVER YOU CALL IT.

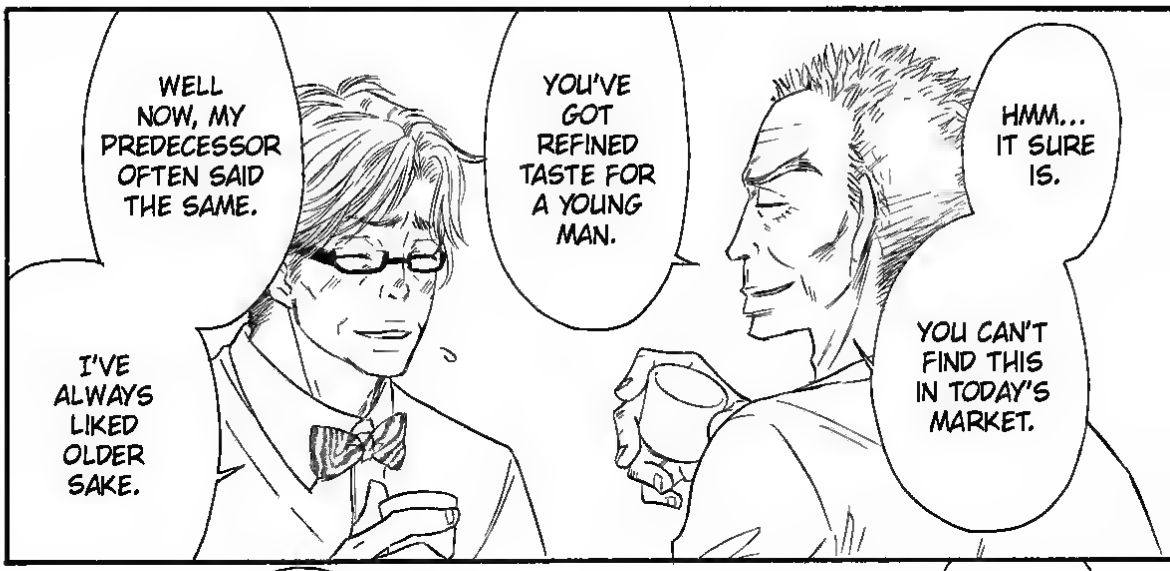

I WAS AT SUMOTO BREWERY THE OTHER DAY, AND THEY GAVE ME THIS.
OH, NO, I'M NOT HERE TO DISCUSS THAT TODAY.
TA DA
UNFILTERED NAMAGEN-SHU.
THEY ASKED ME TO PASS IT ALONG TO YOU IF I HAD THE CHANCE.
CHING
AHH! SUMOTO'S SEVEN-YEAR-OLD SAKE!

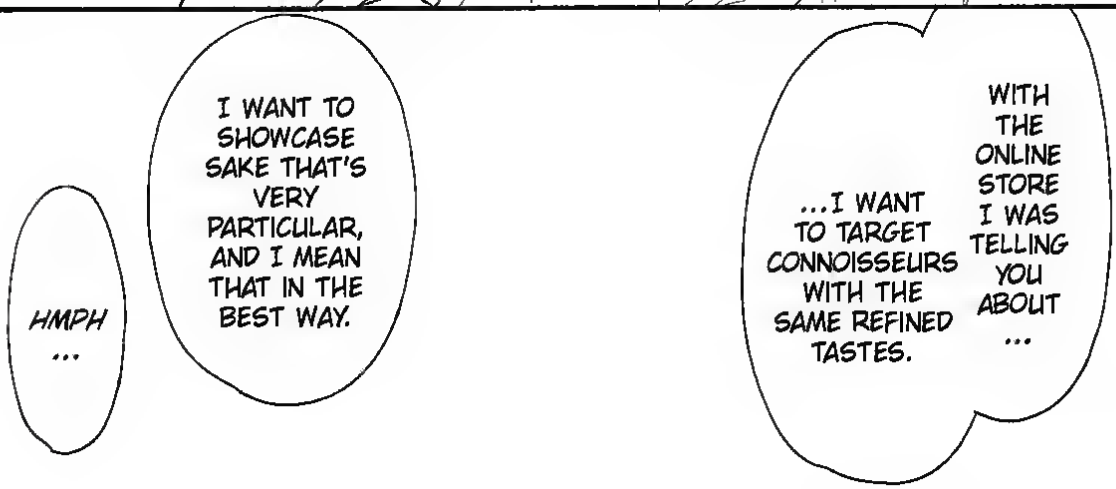
GLEAM
AH...
...SUCH A PERFECT AMBER COLOR.
AND THIS UNIQUE PINE SCENT...
SNIFF
AND THERE'S A FAINT SPICINESS TO IT.

IT'S LIKE EXPENSIVE VELVET ON THE TONGUE.
YOU CAN'T GET THIS FROM A NEW SAKE, I TELL YOU.
...


THESE ARE THE MOMENTS THAT MAKE ME GLAD I'VE SPENT MY LIFE IN PURSUIT OF SAKE.
DEAR ME...
THIS SAKE IS A TREASURE.
TING

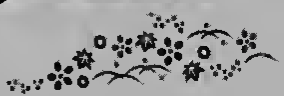
I'D LOVE TO!
IF YOU LIKE AGED SAKE, WANT TO TRY OURS?
PSST
PSST
IT'S A TEN-YEAR-OLD BOTTLE ...
OH MY!


WELL NOW, MY PREDECESSOR OFTEN SAID THE SAME.
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED OLDER SAKE.
YOU'VE GOT REFINED TASTE FOR A YOUNG MAN.
HMM... IT SURE IS.
YOU CAN'T FIND THIS IN TODAY'S MARKET.


HMPH ...
I WANT TO SHOWCASE SAKE THAT'S VERY PARTICULAR, AND I MEAN THAT IN THE BEST WAY.
...I WANT TO TARGET CONNOISSEURS WITH THE SAME REFINED TASTES.
WITH THE ONLINE STORE I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT ...

MR. MATSUMOTO'S VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT SAKE.
APPARENTLY HE EVEN WRITES FOR A SAKE MAGAZINE.
OH!
GRANDPA AND MR. MATSUMOTO ARE REALLY CHATTING AWAY.
GRANDPA TOLD HIM HE DIDN'T TRUST THE INTERNET ...
...AND HE WOULDN'T SELL MR. MATSUMOTO A SINGLE BOTTLE.
Ha ha ha! Now that sounds interesting!
Next time, for sure!
BUT THE WAY THEY'RE GETTING ALONG NOW, WHO KNOWS?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY EXTRA, SO I HOPE HE DOESN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES WE CAN'T KEEP...

The Scent of Apple Blossoms



The Scent of Apple Blossoms
SO, MU...
...WHAT'RE YOUR THOUGHTS ON AGED SAKE?
CLAK
ON WHAT?
AGED SAKE.
?
ALMOST A DAILY ROUTINE
AGED... SAKE...
I KNOW!
OH!
AGED SAKE!
...THIS ONE!
IT'S SAKE THAT'S MATURED FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME.
IT'S ALSO CALLED HIZOUSHU, "TREASURED SAKE"!
WELL?
YUP!
...
...

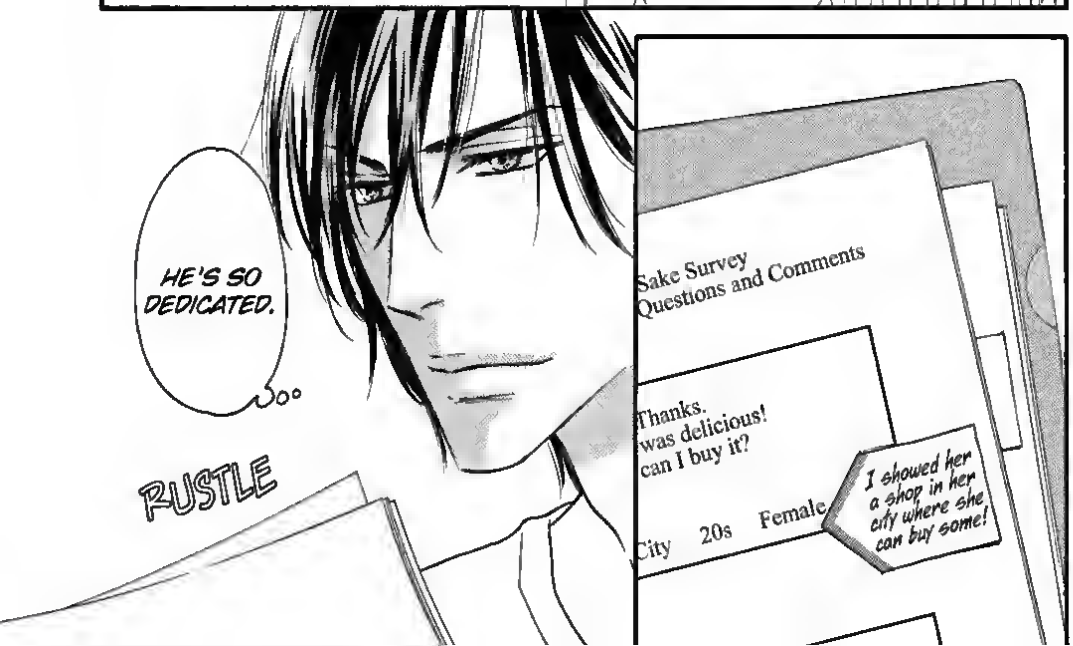
SIGH
I WISH WE COULD TALK ABOUT SAKE.
OH...
THIS IS NO FUN...
...I SUPPOSE YOU COULDN'T KNOW...
...I'M SORRY.
...

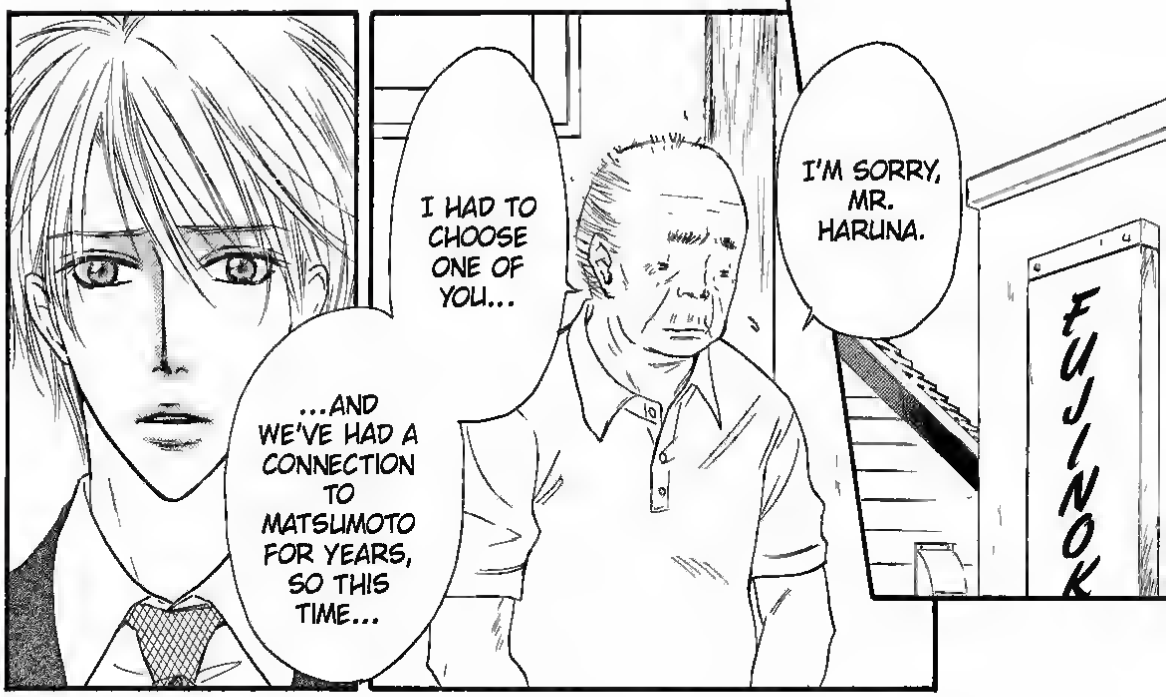
The Scent of Apple Blossoms
CHACK
THANKS FOR DINNER!
SAY GOOD NIGHT FOR ME, OKAY?
SURE THING.
'BOUT EARLIER ...
?
WHAT GRAMPS SAID.
JUST IGNORE HIM.
HE WANTED TO TALK SAKE WITH YOU BECAUSE HE LIKES YOU.

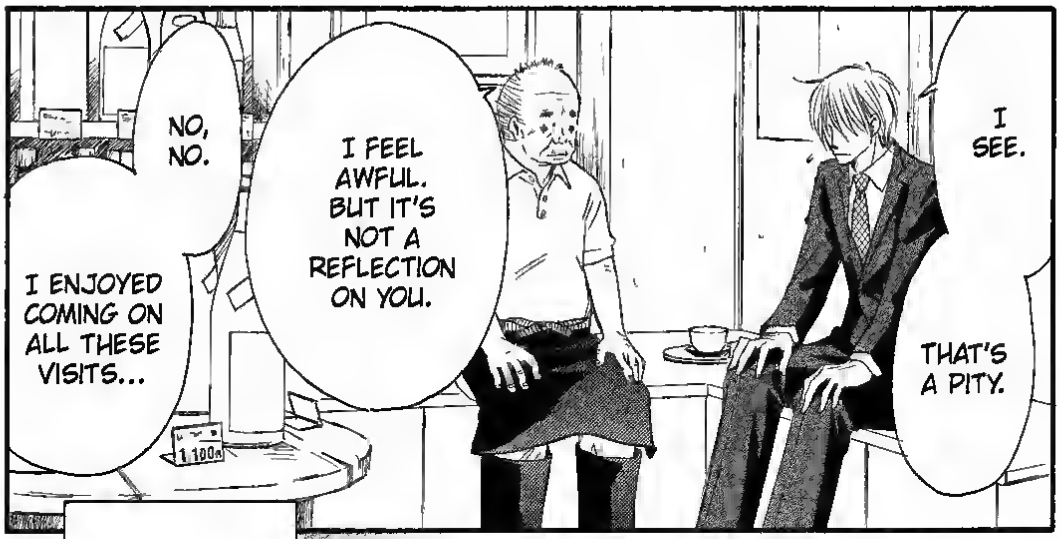
OH, RIGHT! I FORGOT TO GIVE YOU THIS.
WE COLLECTED CUSTOMER RESPONSES ON ALL THE SAKE WE SELL.
I HOPE YOU'LL ALL READ THE RESULTS.
WAKATAKE'S SAKE WAS REALLY WELL RECEIVED.
WE EVEN GOT SOME EMAILS FROM THE U.S.
OKAY.
HERE.
YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO GIVE IT TO THEM.
THEY'LL LIKE THAT BEST.
OH.
YOU THINK SO?
BUT IT'S NOT REALLY A BIG DEAL.
...
YOU GIVE IT TO THEM, SHU.
TAF

CHACK
I'LL BE HEARING BACK FROM FUJINOKURA TOMORROW.
IF I COME HOME CRYING, CHEER ME UP, OKAY?
Ha ha ha...
GOOD NIGHT, THEN!
CHACK
CHACK

THAT'S NOT LIKE HIM.
HE JUST WENT STRAIGHT HOME.
SHAAA
USUALLY No one's watching! Gimme a goodnight kiss!
No way!
Just a little! Just the tip!
The tip of WHAT?!
NOT THAT I WANT HIM TO DO THAT OR ANY-THING...


HE'S SO DEDICATED.
RUSTLE
Sake Survey
Questions and Comments
Thanks.
was delicious!
can I buy it?
City 20s Female
I showed her a shop in her city where she can buy some!





I knew it wouldn't be that easy...

ALL RIGHT.

NEXT TIME, MAYBE...

I'M VERY SORRY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

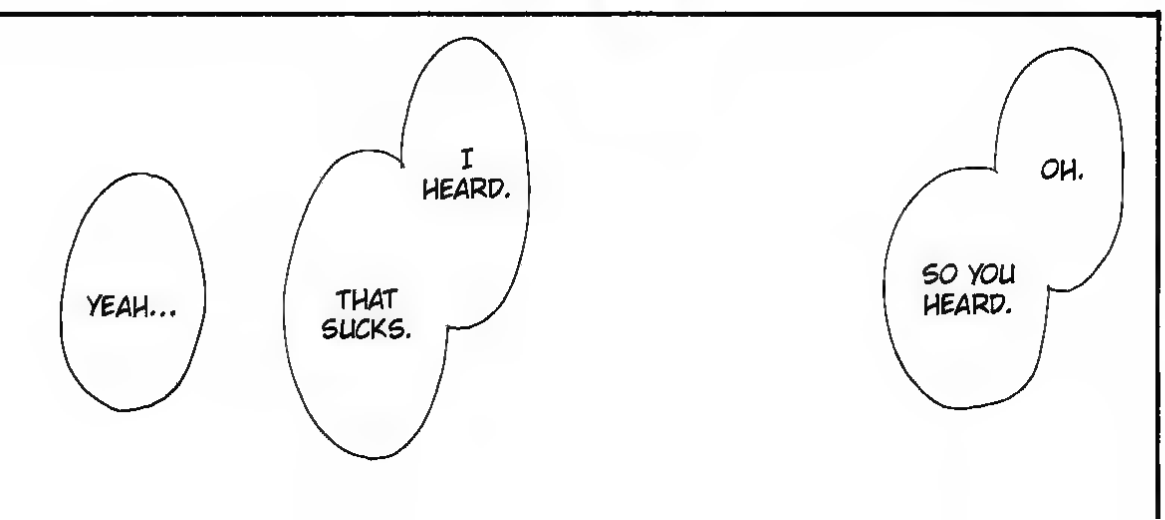
...AND I REALLY LEARNED A LOT.

BRRNG
WAAH
WHACK
UNACCEPTABLE! I WANT A WRITTEN APOLOGY!
Haruuaaa!
He really put me through the wringer...
BRRNG
BRRNG
I don't know what to say to him.
How can I tell him that after all his help, I still wasn't able to get the contract?
...
BRRNG
SLP
BRRNG
SO YOU'RE NOT GONNA PICK UP?
Oh, yeah. I had a missed call from Haruna too.
SORRY. LATER, OKAY?

HARUNA'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
T-THWAR
YOU NEVER DO THAT.
SORRY.
I'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND ALL DAY.
I WAS GONNA CALL WHEN I GOT HOME...
OKAY, THEN.

FWUMP
...
ALL RIGHT...?
NAH, I'M OKAY.
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO EAT.
FLOP
I DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD IN THE FRIDGE.
YOU WANNA GO OUT?

AND HE MENTIONED FUJINOKURA, SO...
BOW-TIE GUY...
...CAME TO THE BREWERY THIS EVENING.


YEAH...
I HEARD. THAT SUCKS.
OH. SO YOU HEARD.

THUD
I HAD TO APOLOGIZE AT WORK.
MY BOSS THINKS I SHOULD'VE HAD THIS CONTRACT IN THE BAG.
AND IT'S GOING TO HOLD UP ALL KINDS OF OTHER PROJECTS.
I'VE NEVER HAD A FAILURE LIKE THIS BEFORE.
I GUESS IT WAS ALWAYS A LONG SHOT...
...ME NEGOTIATING WITH A BREWERY WHEN I CAN'T DRINK SAKE.
THESE DEALS AREN'T CHILD'S PLAY. OF COURSE THE BREWERY COULDN'T TRUST ME.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU DRINK OR NOT.
THAT'S NOT WHAT MAKES YOU A GOOD SALESMAN.
WE TRUST YOU.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO WALLOW IN SELF-PITY.
YOU JUST KEEP DOING THINGS YOUR WAY.
FIDGET
...BUT IT'S NOT TRUE...
THANKS ...
...NOT MATTER?
HOW CAN IT...
GRP

HOW CAN I JUST BE MYSELF?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
I CAN'T DRINK SAKE, SO THERE'S NO WAY I'LL EVER UNDERSTAND IT.
IT'S EASY TO SAY, "OH, I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT"...
...BUT I CAN'T DO THE IMPOSSIBLE!!

TUP
NGN...
SNIFF
SLAM

The Scent of Apple Blossoms

SLAM

The Scent of Apple Blossoms

FWEEE
...
WHAM
THUD!
OOF!

I'M SORRY.
SOB
WHAT, YOU'RE OVER IT ALREADY?
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN FIVE MINUTES.
GULP
SOB
SOB
SOB
NO... I'M SORRY I TOOK IT OUT ON YOU.
SOB
YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO COMFORT ME.
I WAS BEING STUPID ...
SOB
SOB
GULP
SOB
SOB

I THINK I'LL RECOVER FROM YOUR VICIOUS ATTACK.
SOB
HERE, DRINK THIS AND CALM DOWN.
WHAT IS IT? HOT CHOCO-LATE?
SNIFF
YOU HAD SOME MILK IN THE FRIDGE.
BETTER THAN SODA, RIGHT?
PUT MARSH-MALLOWS IN IT...
SNIFF
WHAT?
Lay off the sugary stuff!
YOUR FRIDGE LOOKS LIKE IT BELONGS TO A TOTAL LUSH.
CLINK

Oh, it's from Fujinokura
BEER, SAKE ...
YOU'VE EVEN GOT WINE.
WHY DO YOU HAVE SO MUCH ALCOHOL?
HM?
HA HA... IT JUST ACCUMU-LATED.
I ALWAYS THINK OF YOU WHEN I SEE ALCOHOL, AND I END UP BUYING SOME.
IT'S ALL FOR YOU.
The wine was a gift from work. Nouveau something ...
WELL, THANKS...
...BUT WHY THE EXTREME SELEC-TION?

FINISH YOUR DRINK.
HM?
Ahh... it's so hot...
WHEN YOU COME OVER AND GO STRAIGHT TO THE FRIDGE...
...TO ENJOY A BEER... WATCHING YOU MAKES ME SO HAPPY.
I GUESS IT'S A PAVLOVIAN RESPONSE.
SHU?
TNK

I TOLD YOU I'D COMFORT YOU, RIGHT?
YOU TASTE SWEET.
HA HA HA...
WILL YOU ADD A LITTLE *MORE* SUGAR?
DON'T COUNT ON IT.

AHH...
OOF!
MY PANTS ARE STILL ON. PULL THAT...
HURRY UP.
AH!
WAIT, WAIT...
HEY, STOP SQUIRMING. LIFT YOUR HIPS UP.
WUMP
HA HA!
MY LEG, MY LEG! OWW!
SLP
OH!
AH...

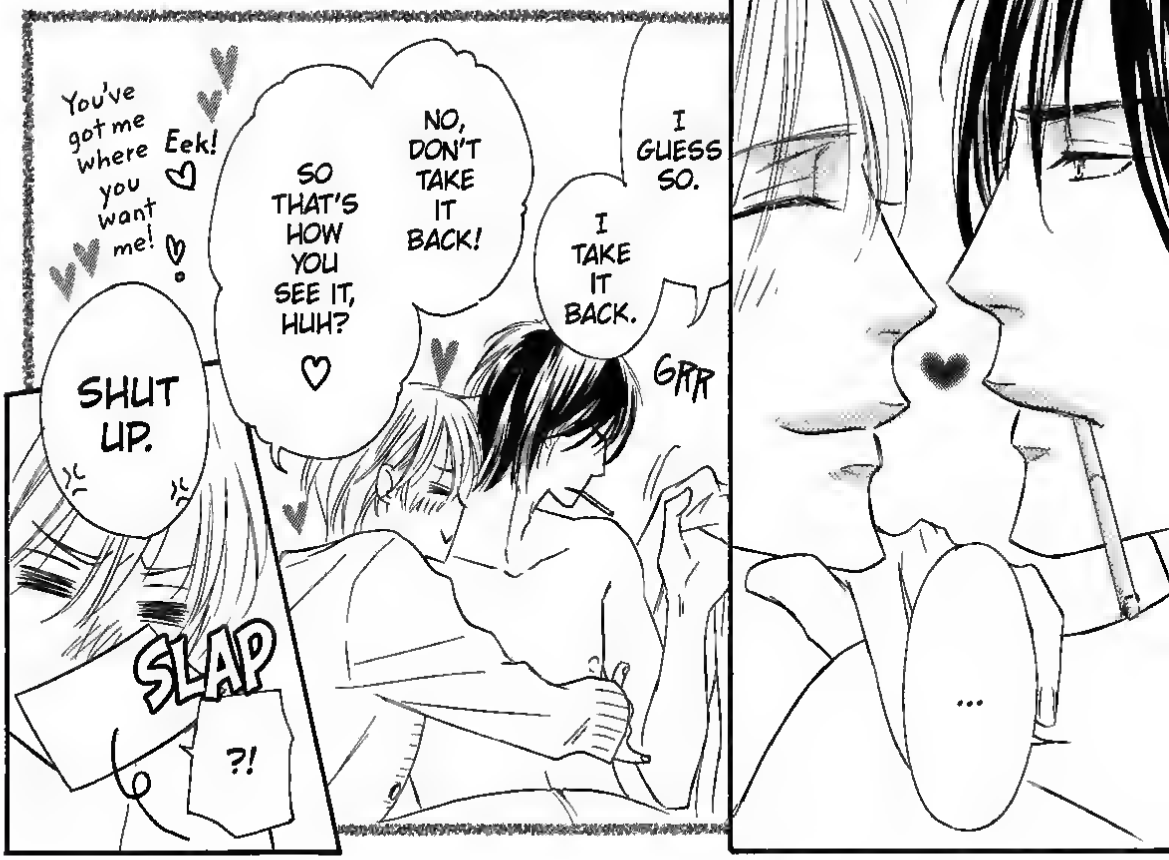
CREAK
HA HA...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M TAKING REQUESTS.
REALLY? ANYTHING I SAY?
OKAY, SAY, "I LOVE YOU"!
...
NOT...
...ANY-THING...
ERK
NGN...
NO FAIR! YOU'RE SO ME-
OOH...
GSH
DON'T TALK ANY-MORE.
FORGET IT.

AH...
HFF
SHU...
...THANK YOU...
HFF
DON'T PULL YOUR HIPS BACK.
GRP
MM...
AH...
SLAP
I MEAN, IT FELT GOOD, BUT STILL!
HFF
THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU.
SLAP
ARGH!
HEY! WHY'D YOU SPANK ME?

SNERK
SO GOOFY...
HEH HEH HEH
HMM...
ZZZ...
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
T
W
A
C
K
JEEZ... THE THINGS YOU MAKE ME DO...
DAMN YOU.
TAKKA
TAK
TAK
TAKKA

OH, SORRY I WOKE YOU UP. IS IT TOO BRIGHT?
YOU'RE NOT SLEEPING?
NAH ...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
TAK TAKKA TAKKA
TAKKA TAKKA
I COULDN'T GET BACK TO SLEEP.
I DREAMED MY BOSS WAS YELLING AT ME.
HMM? THIS?
MY REPORT... MORE PRECISELY, MY WRITTEN APOLOGY.
I TOLD YOU WE COULD PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU.
HA HA ...
I KNOW.
SORRY, I'M ALMOST DONE.
OH WELL. MIGHT AS WELL GET THE BAD STUFF OVER WITH SO I CAN MOVE ON!

YOU NEVER TAKE THE EASY ROUTE, DO YOU?
HM?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU GOT YOURSELF ENSNARED BY A GUY LIKE ME.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NO WAY.
I'M THE ONE WHO ENSNARED YOU.


You've got me where you want me!
Eek!
SHUT UP.
SLAP
?!
SO THAT'S HOW YOU SEE IT, HUH?
NO, DON'T TAKE IT BACK!
I TAKE IT BACK.
I GUESS SO.
GRR
...

HUH? WHAT'S THIS?
A BUSINESS CARD?
Nakano Brewery
Nakano,
IT'S A SAKE BREWERY IN HYOGO.
YEAH?
I'M NOT SAYING IT'LL MAKE UP FOR FUJINO-KURA...
...BUT I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE OWNER INTEREST-ING.
OH... BUT...

HE WAS A TRIP.
GO THERE AND YOU'LL SEE.
A TRIP?
HMM ...
DON'T WORRY. WE DON'T HAVE ANY CONNECTION TO THEM.
I JUST MET THE OWNER AT A SAKE SHOW A WHILE BACK.
NAH.
JUST CROSSED MY MIND, THAT'S ALL.
I'LL CHECK IT OUT.
THANKS. DID YOU BRING THAT JUST FOR ME?
WELL YOU DO LOVE ME, RIGHT? RIGHT? RIIIIGHT?
PLEASE SHUT UP.
GRP
GRP
YOU NEVER STOP LOOKING FOR THAT SILVER LINING, DO YOU?
YOU REALLY LOVE ME, DON'T YOU?

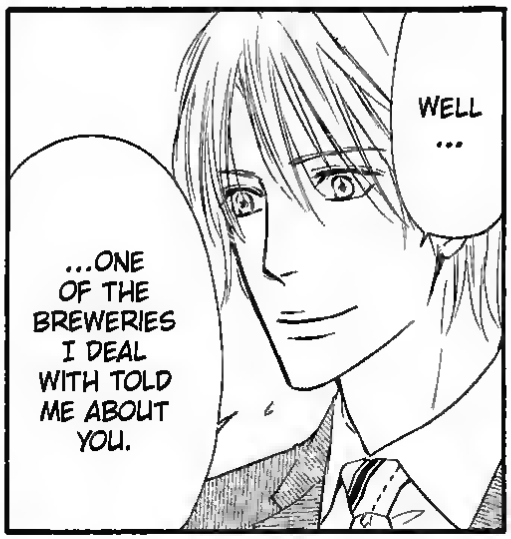
Nakano B
HELLO!

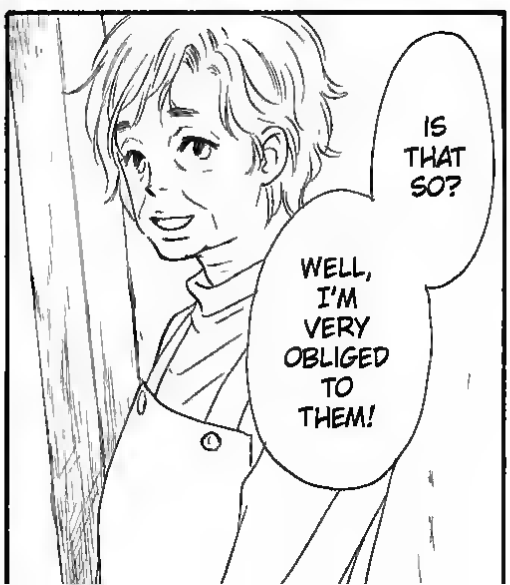
CHAK
EXCUSE ME. IS ANYONE HERE?

SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU AT SUCH A BUSY TIME.
PLEASE... THINK NOTHING OF IT.
IT'S GOOD OF YOU TO VISIT A TINY BREWERY LIKE OURS.

HELLO.
I'M HARUNA FROM W&F. I CALLED THE OTHER DAY...
COMING!
POP
OH, YES, I HEARD ABOUT YOU.
THANK YOU FOR COMING SO FAR.

THE OWNER AND MASTER BREWER ARE IN THE WORKROOM NOW.
I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET THEM.
WE DON'T GET MANY VISITORS, SO THEY'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT.
HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU HEAR ABOUT OUR LITTLE BREWERY?
WE DON'T SELL MUCH TO THE KANTO REGION...


WELL ...
...ONE OF THE BREWERIES I DEAL WITH TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.


IS THAT SO?
WELL, I'M VERY OBLIGED TO THEM!

MASTER BREWER...
...CHIEF...
...THE GUEST WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HAS ARRIVED.
Waiting for me?
BDMP
BDMP
Now I'm nervous ...

!!
OH, THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY!

The Scent of Apple Blossoms
MR. MATSUMOTO CALLED EARLIER AND SAID HE'D LIKE AN ANSWER FROM YOU SOON.
HE'LL STOP BY THIS WEEK-END.
HMPH.
HEY, GRANDPA.
I'M SURE YOU KNOW WE DON'T HAVE MANY EXTRA BOTTLES...
...BUT THE FINAL DECISION IS UP TO YOU.
IF YOU WANT TO SELL TO MR. MATSUMOTO, GO AHEAD.

The Scent of
Apple Blossoms

HE'S EITHER IN THE WORK-ROOM OR THE WARE-HOUSE...
IS HE?
I'LL JUST HEAD ON IN, THEN!
OH, MUCCHAN! WHAT ABOUT DINNER?
I'LL STAY!
PAF
PAF
POP
GOOD EVENING!
OH, MUCCHAN! LONG TIME NO SEE! HAVE YOU BEEN BUSY?
I HAD A FEW BUSINESS TRIPS.
IS YOUR BROTHER HERE? I NEED TO TALK TO HIM.
GOOD EVENING, SIR!
?
We're having chicken hotpot!
OH! SHOGI LATER?
SURE, LATER!
He's in a hurry.
Yeah.
PAF
PAF
SHU!!
TMP
TMP

CLATTER CLATTER
SHU!
I'm gonna kick his ass...
CLANG
CLANG
ARRGH!!
WHOOPS!
CLATTER
HEY!
I just straightened up!
YIKES!
Jeez...
What the hell?
CALM DOWN.
YEAH?
HOW WAS IT?
I WENT!
TO NAKANO BREWERY!
SHU!
AMAZING!

Thank you so much for coming! I'm Nicol Schiffer.
WHOA!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
THE BREWERY OWNER...
...HAD BLUE EYES!
HE'S AN AMERICAN!
AND HE'S FROM L.A.! A FELLOW ANGELENO!
I'm from L.A. too!
Really? What a coincidence!
BUT HE SPEAKS FLUENT KANSAI, AND HE'S SO MUCH FUN!
Ha ha ha!
Finally, I can speak English! But I may have forgotten it all!
OH.
SO?
HOW'D IT GO?
WHEN I TOLD HIM WE HAVE A NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTION ROUTE, HE WAS REALLY HAPPY...
...AND HE SIGNED A CONTRACT ON THE SPOT!
We can sell to the U.S.!
Great, huh, Master Brewer?
Very nice. We don't have our own distributor.

AND I WAS NAMED TEAM LEADER!
It's a slight promotion. ♪
YOU'RE A TEAM LEADER?
Will the team be safe?
How about hitting up L.A. while you're there?
If that goes well, maybe later we can go with Japanese brewers...
And some local liquor shops...
I'd like to take Mr. Nicol to New York for a trial tasting event early next year.
So the hotel is all set up...
MY BOSS IS REALLY INTERESTED IN IT.
HE ALWAYS JUMPS ON A CHANCE TO TAKE JAPANESE SAKE OVERSEAS.
WE'VE GOT ALL KINDS OF PLANS IN THE WORKS.
I ASKED ONE OF MY COWORKERS WHO DEALS IN WESTERN ALCOHOL, AND APPARENTLY IT'S PRETTY FAMOUS!
SO WE GOT A CONTRACT WITH THEM TOO!
THEY OPERATE A WINERY IN NAPA VALLEY!
HA HA HA!
I became obsessed. My sister took over the vineyard.
I went abroad to learn about drinking culture around the world, and I discovered sake.
AND THEN I HAD A REAL STROKE OF LUCK!
YEAH? WHAT?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT NICOL'S FAMILY DOES?
NOPE.

TNK
I DIDN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU.
THANK YOU.
TAF
OH YEAH?
THAT'S GREAT.
YEAH.
...
THANK YOU.
YOU PUT YOUR THINKING CAP ON FOR ME.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
OH... OKAY.
Right...
GO SEE HIM.
HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. YOU'VE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG.
HRM
HRM
WHAT?!
YIPE
GRAMPS IS WATCHING ...
QUIT IT.
BLARG
QUICK
?!!

THAT'S TRUE...
I HAVE TO TELL ALL OF YOU, ANYWAY.
YEAH.
TOK
YOU'RE STAYING OVER TONIGHT, RIGHT?
TELL ME LATER.
TOK
OH!
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT... SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
WHAT?
NO...I'M NOT QUITTING, BUT I'M TRANSFERRING TO A DIFFERENT DEPARTMENT.
?!
YOU'RE QUITTING SALES?
GULP
GULP
GNCH

I'M PART OF THE FOREIGN BUSINESS DEPARTMENT. TO BE HONEST, LATELY I HAVEN'T BEEN DOING MANY DIRECT SALES CALLS.
BLUP
LIKE I SAID EARLIER, I'M TEAM LEADER FOR THE OVERSEAS PROJECT.
I'LL BE GOING AWAY ON MORE BUSINESS TRIPS, SO THE HIGHER-UPS DECIDED I SHOULD FOCUS ON THAT.
BLUP
OH, NO, YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A BOTHER!
SO IT MAKES SENSE TO USE THIS CHANCE TO LET SOMEONE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE TAKE OVER.
I'M SURE IT'S BEEN A HASSLE TO DEAL WITH ME.
SINCE I CAN'T DRINK SAKE, THERE ARE THINGS I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND.
OF COURSE I'LL COME BY TO FOLLOW UP!
AWW...BUT WE'LL MISS YOU!
OOH, A WOMAN?
MNCH
MNCH
AND SHE'S VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE JOB!
BUT THE WOMAN TAKING OVER FROM ME LOVES SAKE.

SO YOU'RE JUST DROPPING THE BALL?
YOU'VE GOT NO GUTS, KID.
THUNK
I'LL BE STOPPING IN A FEW DAYS FROM NOW.
SIR, I HOPE YOU'LL BE JUST AS KIND TO MY SUCCESSOR AS-
GRANDPA!
I DON'T CARE! HE SHOULDN'T GO!
HE CAN'T HELP IT. IT'S THE COMPANY'S DECISION...
Oh boy...
You're drinking too much.
Another glass!
Hurry!
...
OOG...
MNCH
MNCH
DON'T MIND HIM.
HE'S JUST SULKING.

SHOOF
YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP ALREADY?
THEN TURN THE LIGHT OFF.
HMM? I'M AWAKE.
SNIFF
THE MASTER BREWER WAS SO ANGRY...I GUESS I AM JUST LEAVING THINGS HANGING.
But still...
TUP
FOR ME?
A YUKATA!!
I JUST DIDN'T HAVE ANY OTHER PAJAMAS.
WHOA

HE'S NOT ANGRY.
WHY DO YOU NEED CHEERING UP, ANYWAY?
YOU'RE HIS FAVORITE, SO HE HATES TO SEE YOU OVER THE MOON ABOUT SOME OTHER BREWERY.
YOUR GRANDPA'S MAD AT ME.
HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET THAT IDEA?
AWW, IS THAT ALL?
AND HERE I THOUGHT IT WAS TO CHEER ME UP...
NOPE.
WILL YOU BE SAD WHEN I STOP COMING AROUND?
HAVE YOU NO HEART?
NOOO
I'M NOT OVER THE MOON.
I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU, SHU.
RUB
RUB
RUB
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WELL, YOU'LL JUST STOP COMING FOR WORK, RIGHT?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO DROP OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH?
OF COURSE NOT!!
I'll follow you forever!!

WELL, THEN THINGS WON'T BE MUCH DIFFERENT.
YOU'LL COME BY AFTER WORK, HAVE DINNER, PLAY SHOGI...
YOU'LL STAY OVER ON THE WEEKENDS, JOIN EVERYBODY FOR BREAKFAST, PLAY MORE SHOGI...
DRAFT
CAN I REALLY HANG OUT LIKE I USED TO?
WON'T I BE IN THE WAY?
Ha!
YOU, IN THE WAY? YOU'RE ASKING ME THAT?
At this point?
BUT ...
Hey! Sometimes even I need reassurance
SLAP
COME HANG OUT!
GRAMPS IS SULKING BECAUSE HE THINKS THAT'S ALL COMING TO AN END.
YOU KNOW, HE BRAGS ABOUT YOU...
...TO HIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD SHOGI BUDDIES.
!

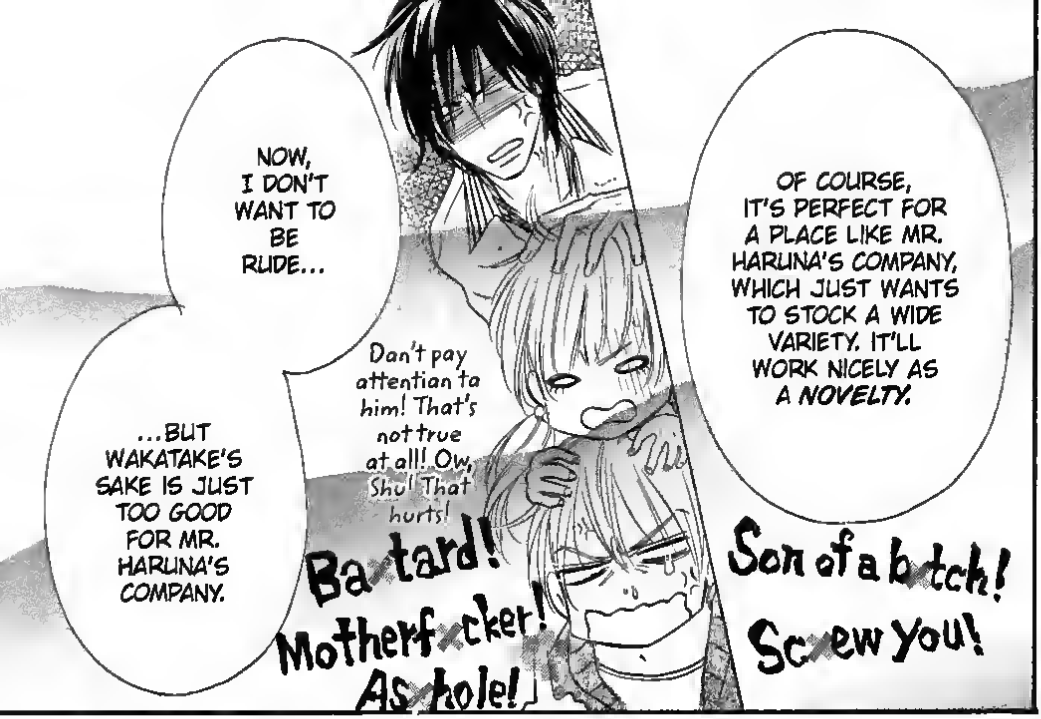
Jeez... You're so noisy.
OH... YEAH.
DASH!
GRP
THEN I'VE GOT TO GO TELL HIM!
I HAVE TO SET HIM STRAIGHT!
IT'S OKAY. DO IT TOMOR-ROW.
HE'S ASLEEP.
PAF
PAF
PAF
I... HUH?!
What?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, NICOL...
ERK!
GRP
STOP TALKING ABOUT OTHER MEN.
ARE YOU JEALOUS?
HEART CLENCH
NO...

HEY.
WHERE ARE YOU TRYING TO PUT THAT HAND?
RUB
MMM...
I TOLD YOU...I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU.
HM?
WHAT IS THIS, UNDER-WEAR?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S NO FUN...
WHAT ISN'T? HEY, DON'T GRAB ME!

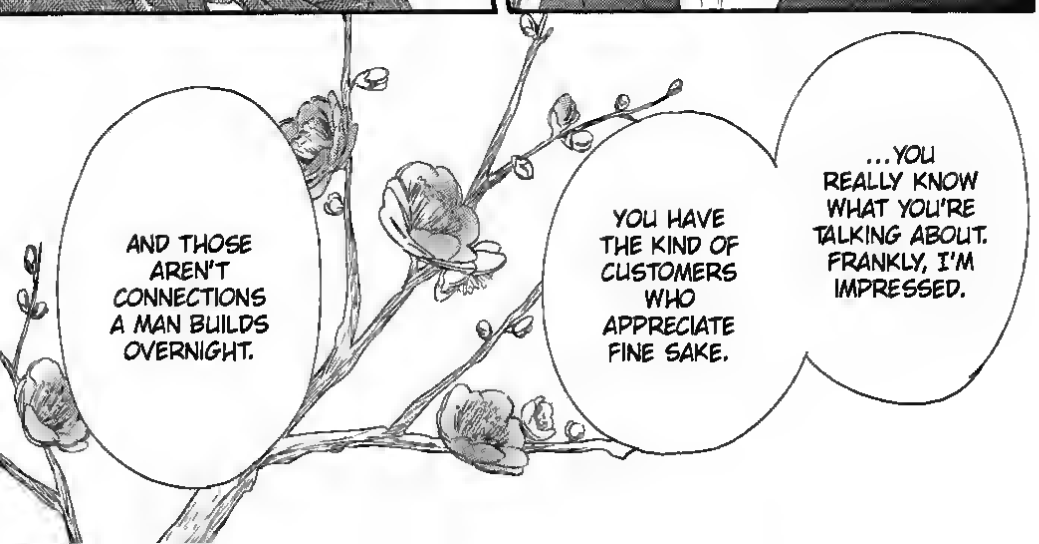
MM...
SHU...
TAF
HUH?
HEY...I'M HUNGRY...
ARE YOU UP?
TAF
TAF
HUH?
THUP
THUP
THUP
Oh.
GOOD MORN-ING.
I overslept.
YOU SHOULD'VE GOTTEN ME UP.
HUH?
GO BACK TO THE ROOM.
BOW-TIE GUY IS HERE.

...
I SEE.
OH, FOR THE ONLINE THING...
MR. MATSUMOTO?
Why, hello there. How have you been?
WHY? TODAY'S SATURDAY... OH, BUT I GUESS THE BREWERY'S OPEN.
TODAY THEY'RE GOING TO LET HIM KNOW WHETHER THEY'LL SIGN WITH HIM.
...
I DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH THE MESS IF HE FIGURES OUT YOU'RE HERE.
JUST GO BACK UP-STAIRS.
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GONNA DO.
IT'S UP TO GRAMPS.
...
THAT SO?
I HOPE YOU'LL EXCUSE ME CALLING ON A SATURDAY MORNING LIKE THIS.
I WAS HOPING I COULD GET AN ANSWER FROM YOU...

WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE ME YOUR SAKE TO SELL ONLINE?
UH OH
What's going on?
...
...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, SIR...
...DO YOU KNOW NAKANO BREWERY?
Thank you.
THEIR HEAD BREWER IS A STRANGE ONE.
HE'S AN AMERICAN.
I HEARD MR. HARUNA WENT TO SEE HIM.
What is he, a spy? This guy freaks me out!!
I WENT THERE MYSELF ONCE.
BUT... WELL, HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS? HIS SAKE WAS A BIT FLAT. HE IS A FOREIGNER, AFTER ALL.
JAPANESE SAKE IS A PROFOUND ART.
IT'S NOT EASY TO MAKE.


NOW, I DON'T WANT TO BE RUDE...
...BUT WAKATAKE'S SAKE IS JUST TOO GOOD FOR MR. HARUNA'S COMPANY.
Don't pay attentian ta him! That's not true at all! Ow, Shu! That hurts!
Ba*tard!
Motherf*cker!
As*hole!
OF COURSE, IT'S PERFECT FOR A PLACE LIKE MR. HARUNA'S COMPANY, WHICH JUST WANTS TO STOCK A WIDE VARIETY. IT'LL WORK NICELY AS A *NOVELTY*.
Son of a b*tch!
Sc*ew you!

MR. MATSUMOTO ...
ALL OF *MY* CUSTOMERS HAVE A TRULY SOPHISTICATED PALATE.


AND THOSE AREN'T CONNECTIONS A MAN BUILDS OVERNIGHT.
YOU HAVE THE KIND OF CUSTOMERS WHO APPRECIATE FINE SAKE.
...YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. FRANKLY, I'M IMPRESSED.

COMPARED TO YOU, MR. HARUNA DOESN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT SAKE, AND HE CAN'T HOLD HIS LIQUOR WORTH A DAMN.
MOST OF THE CUSTOMERS HE BRINGS ARE YOUNG FOLKS.
HE COULDN'T BE MORE DIFFERENT FROM YOU...
THAT'S RIGHT, SIR!
THEN YOU'LL...
BUT...

...BIG FAT DEAL!
SAKE IS LESS POPULAR NOWADAYS BECAUSE GOURMET SNOBS HOARD ALL THE GOOD STUFF AND JACK UP THE PRICES.
THEY KEEP IT IN THEIR ELITE LITTLE CIRCLES, WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NEVER GONNA FEEL COMFORTABLE.
BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF SAKE IF NO ONE DRINKS IT?
Impossible to Find!
The Legendary Ginjoshu Ten
Exclusive Price
2,500
YOU KNOW ...
...SINCE WE STARTED SELLING TO MR. HARUNA'S COMPANY, WE'VE GOTTEN A LOT MORE YOUNG CUSTOMERS.
WE HAD SOME AT A RESTAURANT IN THE CITY, AND WE WERE THRILLED BY JUST HOW DELICIOUS SAKE COULD BE.
WE DECIDED WE'D LOVE TO DRINK IT AT HOME.
Hello!
Ooh, so retro!
PEOPLE WHO JUST HAD THEIR FIRST TASTE OF SAKE.
PEOPLE WHO MADE THE TRIP OUT HERE BECAUSE THEY LIKED IT SO MUCH.
Thank you very much! Have fun!
MY DAD LOVES SAKE, AND I REALLY WANT HIM TO TRY IT.
I NEVER LIKED SAKE, BUT I HAD SOME OF YOURS AND IT WASN'T HALF BAD.
WE'RE GOING TO DRINK THIS TOGETHER TONIGHT.

I DON'T GIVE A FIG FOR WHAT YOU'D CALL SOPHISTI-CATION.
IF OUR BREWERY CAN SERVE AS A GATEWAY TO GOOD SAKE, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
OUR SAKE SHOWED THEM HOW GOOD SAKE CAN BE.
NOTHING COULD MAKE ME HAPPIER. THAT'S THE KIND OF THING THAT MAKES ME FEEL LUCKY TO BE A BREWER.

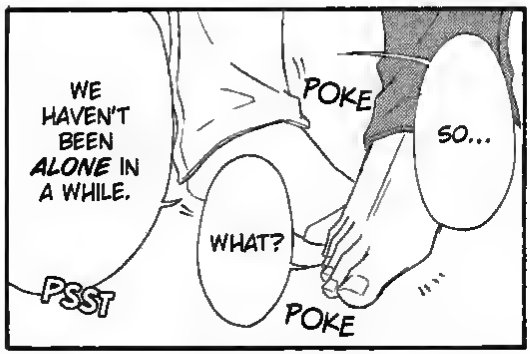
YOU'LL FIND PLENTY OF OTHER SAKE THAT MEETS YOUR STANDARDS.
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOTTA DECLINE.

WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING THERE?
GRANDPA!
SIR!
WEEP
WEEP
WEEP
SIGH
CREAK
CREAK
OUR HERO☆
WH... WHAT?!
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU TWO...
Go, master brewer!
YOU WERE SO COOL, GRANDPA!
THAT WAS SO MOVING!
THANK YOU, SIR! THANK YOU!
HMPH.
...BUT I'LL WORK HARD...
...TO BRING SAKE TO THE WHOLE WORLD, JUST LIKE YOU SAID!
SIR!
I WON'T BE COMING BY HERE FOR WORK MUCH ANYMORE...

IF WE COULD GO ON HAVING DINNER AND PLAYING SHOGI...
...THAT WOULD BE GREAT.
ALSO...
...I FORGET TO ASK YESTERDAY...
!
...BUT IS IT OKAY IF I COME BY TO HANG OUT, EVEN IF IT'S NOT WORK-RELATED?
HMPH.
HMM...
DO...
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
OUR DOOR'S ALWAYS OPEN!
Sir...
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY! OH, LET ME GIVE YOU A HUG!
Whee!
WHA...?!
STOP THIS DISGUSTING DISPLAY!

YOU YOUNG FOOL!
BAM
I GOT CARRIED AWAY.
IS HE ANGRY?
RATTLE
SLAM
NAH. JUST EMBARRASSED.
HE'S GOING TO TAKE A WALK AROUND THE BLOCK.
LET'S GET DINNER READY BEFORE HE GETS BACK.
CREAK
OKAY. I'LL HELP.
SPANK
HUH?
I'M SO GLAD WE MADE UP.
IT WAS JUST LIKE YOU SAID, SHU.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
?
?
?

WE CAN EAT AS SOON AS YOUR GRANDPA GETS BACK.
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
KICK
SURE THING.


WE HAVEN'T BEEN *ALONE* IN A WHILE.
POKE
SO...
WHAT?
PSST
POKE

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL ...
...RIGHT ?
YEAH! THANK GOODNESS!

YOU WERE ALL OVER THE PLACE ON THOSE BUSINESS TRIPS.
YEAH, BUT STILL.

HEY, LET'S BUY A BED!
ARE YOU STILL ON THAT?
IF YOU CAN GIVE GRAMPS THE SLIP.
LEAVE IT TO ME!
WANNA GO TO THE APARTMENT TONIGHT?
SNAP
SNAP
YOU'RE WILLING TO GO THAT FAR FOR IT?
WELL...
My back's really sore!
I'LL DO THE CLEANING!
IT'D BE SUCH A PAIN TO CLEAR A SPACE.
I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT'S IN WHICH BOX ANYMORE.
HOW ABOUT THIS?
I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA!
OH!

LET'S GET A BIGGER PLACE...
...AND LIVE TOGETHER!
SILENCE
...
...?
SNAP
...
HEY, MUCCHAN! COME TASTE THIS!
UM ...

...
Is he angry?
Come on in!
OKAY.
Hmm... or sort of bitter...
I'M HUNGRY.
It's good!
Ice cream? Aren't you cold?
WHY ARE YOU EATING BEFORE DINNER?
YOUR GRANDPA'S TAKING HIS TIME.

...
SO...
FIDGET
UM... ABOUT EARLIER...
THIRTY MINUTES AWAY BY CAR.
HUH?
NO, NO LONGER THAN 20 MINUTES.
IT'D BE EVEN BETTER IF I COULD WALK.
AND I GUESS WE SHOULD HAVE SEPARATE ROOMS.
AND I WANT A PLACE TO PUT MY COMPUTERS.
WOW...
SO YOU...
HUH?

THINGS WON'T BE ALL THAT DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW. I'LL STILL BE HERE MOST OF THE TIME.
...
OH, YOU'RE FINALLY BACK.
...
I'M STARV-ING!
COME ON, LET'S EAT!
GRRM
Shu! Shu! Hugs! Let's hug! Huuugs!
Get off me!
WAIT ...
BAFFA BAFFA
WHAT ARE THOSE TWO DOING?
Some-times they don't act like friends...

Welcome home!
OKAY!
WE'RE HAVING A GAME AFTER DINNER!
HEY, MU.
TODAY'S DINNER IS THE DOUBLE HARUNA SPECIAL CHIRASHI ZUSHI.
BUT FIRST LET'S EAT!
OH, MAN, I'M STARVING!
WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?
HMPH ...
YOU CAN SET UP THE SHOGI BOARD AFTER DINNER!
COME ON, GRANDPA!

The Scent of
Apple Blossoms

Hi! Toko Kawai here.

Thank you so much for picking up this volume. This series has been running for a while, but this is the final volume, and it's ending without a hitch. Thank you all for your support.

I've been drawing this couple for three years now, so my art has changed a bit from the first volume. I thought about trying to stay consistent, but I ended up taking things in another direction and wasn't sure how the characters should look. I spent days agonizing over it, but now I've finally stumbled to my goal. What a relief.

I've had a hard time drawing these two, so it was almost a relief to say goodbye to them. But as I was drawing the final short story, I started thinking, "This will be the last time I ever draw these guys," and I got all choked up. I was wiping my runny nose as I drew the final pages. *Ha ha...*

I've never felt like that before while drawing manga; it's a funny feeling.

So I'm saying goodbye to them now, but I hope you'll flip through these pages from time to time and remember about these two guys and the rest of the Wakatake family.

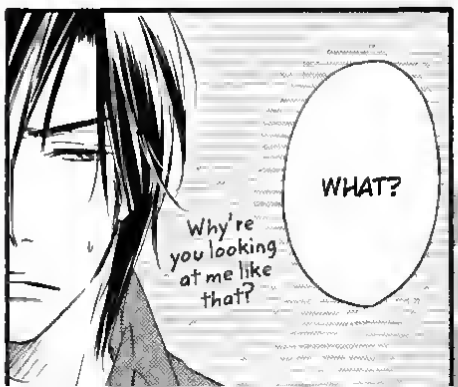
THUD
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE DONE!
WHEW! I'M EXHAUST-ED!
I'M DONE HERE TOO.
STRETCH
I'VE BEEN BUSY.
With stuff.
SHEESH! WE'RE MOVING TOMORROW! YOU HAD TO LEAVE IT ALL TO THE LAST MINUTE!
YEAH, YEAH.
The Night Before the Big Move

I want pizza.
UGH... I'M SO HUNGRY ...
POP
Pizza and soda... ♡
GRRM
LET'S GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT.
SURE THING.
JUST LET ME FILL OUT THE FORM FOR ARTICLES TO BE DISCARDED.
THIS IS SUCH A PAIN...
ARTICLES TO BE DIS-CARDED?
OH YEAH. ARE YOU GONNA GET RID OF THE COUCH?

RUB
I KNOW, BUT...
RUB
...WE'VE GOTTEN SO MUCH USE OUT OF IT. IT KINDA FEELS LIKE THROWING AWAY MEMORIES...
?
I'LL KIND OF MISS IT...
WE ALREADY MOVED THE COUCH FROM YOUR HOUSE, REMEMBER?
WE ONLY NEED ONE.

I ONLY HAVE MEMORIES OF YOU WHINING ABOUT HOW IT WAS TOO SMALL AND HARD TO SLEEP ON.

YEAH, BUT THINK OF ALL THE DIFFERENT WAYS WE GOT SOAKED IN sweat and cum. ♡



YOU'VE GOT A DIRTY MOUTH IN ENGLISH.

MAKE A MEMORY?
LET'S MAKE A MEMORY OF OUR LAST NIGHT HERE.
CREEP
TOTALLY DIRECT.
LET'S HAVE SEX.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE STARVING AND WANTED TO GO EAT.
HMM?
CREEP
WE'LL ORDER PIZZA WHEN WE'RE DONE.
BUT RIGHT NOW... LET'S DO THIS.
YOU KNOW WE HAVE TO MOVE TOMORROW, RIGHT?
I KNOW! WE'LL BE FINE.
YOU SURE?

CREAK
AH...
OH...
HFF
HFF
AH...
AAH...
CREAK
TUG
AH!
YOU'RE SO DEMAND-ING...
HAA...
HARDER ...
HFF
PLEASE ...
SHU...
RIGHT... THERE. KEEP IT UP.

GRP
GSH
THIS IS WHAT YOU BEGGED FOR. DON'T RUN AWAY NOW...
AH!
AHH...
HAA...
AH...
OH...
SHP
YOU KNOW YOU DON'T WANT ME TO STOP...
HFF
AH...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I-
OOH...
HFF
GTT
STOP... WAIT...
I'M GONNA FA...
HEY, SERI-OUSLY...
AH...
AHH
SHU... SHU...
SHUT UP. ISN'T THIS GOOD?
LICK
I'M FALL... ING...
HFF

HFF
I'M GONNA...
S
H
P
WHOOPS.
STOP!
I'M REALLY GONNA...
BRR
BRR
...FALL!
SHP
TUG
AARGH!
S
L
A
M

JEEZ!
I TOLD YOU I WAS FALLING!
WHEW
ARE YOU OKAY, SHU?
Weren't you freaked?
That was scary!
...
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
Sorry, sorry!
I...I'M OKAY...
JUST PULL A LITTLE...OH, NEVER MIND. I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
WIGGLE
BRR
BRR
BRR
PFFT...
BWA...
?

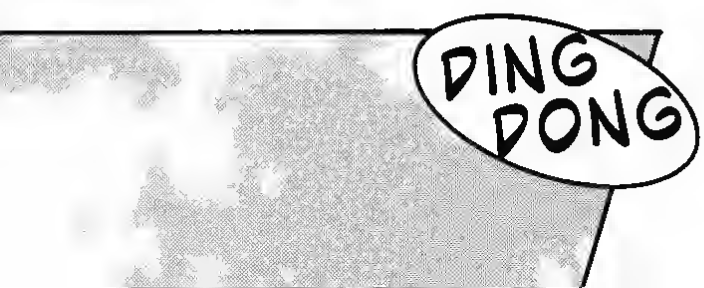
Ha ha ha! I can't! I'm sorry, it's just too funny! Bwa ha ha ha!
Hey!
Sorry...I'm really so... bwa ha ha!
WHAT? HEY! YOU'RE SO MEAN!
S-SORRY...
BWA... HA...
CHONO?
BWA HA HA!
YOU LOOK SO...
His legs are shaking too much to stand.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A PICTURE?
LOOK AT IT WHEN I WAS PISSED OFF AND LAUGH.
ENOUGH ALREADY! SERIOUSLY, ENOUGH!
DELETE IT FROM YOUR MEM-ORIES!
I SHOULD'VE TAKEN A PICTURE WITH MY PHONE...
I haven't laughed so hard in forever.
OH, IT HURTS ...
GOD-DAMN!
SIGH
...
I'LL FORGET ABOUT IT. I WON'T MENTION IT AGAIN.
SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE LAUGHED SO MUCH.
No...
Are you hurt?
THP!
DEPRESSION
Aww... why do I always look my worst in front of the guy I love?
I want him to always see me at my best...
HMPH
HMPH

...IF YOU'RE HAVING A GOOD TIME BEING WITH ME...
...YOU CAN LAUGH AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
IT'S FINE, REALLY!
FLOP
NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON...
RUSTLE
GRP
MM...
YEAH.
I'M HAVING A BLAST.

I WOULDN'T LIE.
I KNOW.
REALLY?

WIP
I'M NOT REALLY FEELING THAT TODAY.
CAN I BE ON TOP?
DON'T FALL THIS TIME.
HEH HEH... ARE WE PICKING UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF?
Yay!


DING DONG

DING DONG
BLINK
!
GOOD MORNING, MR. NAKAGAWA!
MR. NAKAGAWA! KUMACCHO MOVERS!
DING DONG
WOOOO
Kumaccho Movers
MR. NAKA-GAWA!
Out of it...
SHOVE
OH, CRAP! WE OVER-SLEPT!
ONCE MOMENT, PLEASE! WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
...
SHOVE
SHU, THE MOVERS ARE HERE! WAKE UP!
SHU, PUT SOME CLOTHES ON!
Kumacch
POK
POK
OUCH! I DIDN'T EVEN SAY ANY-THING!
I TOLD YOU TO FORGET ABOUT IT!
OH, COME ON!
BWA!
You're smirk-ing!
SHUT UP!
Mr. Na-kagawa?
POP
...
BLINK
?
...
SHU?
Are you still half asleep?

Ha ha! Aha ha ha!
Why, you.... come on, you jerk!
Oww! I'm sorry!